

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL



OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

The World is Our Classroom
10th Anniversary *2007-2017*



What is the Impact of Visiting Four Houses of Worship Each Year?

*Looking at a Pillar of University School of the
Lowcountry's Learning Outside the Classroom Program
(A Field Trip Each Week)*

Jason Kreutner, Head of School
University School of the Lowcountry
Mount Pleasant, SC

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Presentation Overview

Intro & Background of USL and Weekly Field Trips

Faith Field Trips

Questions





About Me

Born and raised in Charleston

Attended and worked as a teacher and administrator in PAIS schools



Felt need to act on a personal vision for a school



About University School

Designed for high-achieving students who are curious, kind, empathetic, and hard-working

Opened in 2007

Located in Mount Pleasant

70 students in grades 3-12

4 days of classes, field trips mostly on Wednesdays

- called Learning Outside the Classroom or LOTCs
- breaks up the week
- some teachers are LOTC teachers – all are welcome
- all participate in 4-5 “all hands” LOTCs per year



About University School

HALLMARKS

Daily Morning PE

Strong mentoring program
– students working together

Multi-day distinct trips for all divisions
30 Field trips for each student each year

Students in grades 3-8 learn three languages at the same time: Mandarin, Spanish, and Latin





The Power of Weekly Field Trips



Why Weekly Field Trips?

“If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.”

“Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself.”

John Dewey



Why Weekly Field Trips?

Independent Schools are uniquely positioned to innovate

Seeing students (and teachers and parents) in a different setting
– allows for all types of conversations and relationship-building

Helps create comfort with ambiguity and spirit of “I’ll see for myself”

Creating a niche that is not being served

Wires flexibility and improvement into the institution

Accountability and Marketing – let the world see your students



Focus Areas

Faiths & Houses of Worship

Preparation for Field Trips

Real World Professional Development

Leadership & Life Skills

Citizenship

Military

Community Service

Colleges

Arts (especially linked field trips – connection to classroom)

Cultures

History, Science, Others



PREPARATION



Before we can begin our yearly field trip program, students learn Krav Maga personal safety techniques.

Before we can begin our yearly field trip program, Middle and Upper School students earn certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED





REAL WORLD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



- I have been on over 500 field trips
- Explored 30+ houses of worship
- Toured 20+ colleges
- Have heard from 40+ candidates/representatives from the 4 major political parties
- Learned about all branches of the military at 15+ sites
- Explored the world with my students on 15 different weeklong out-of-state trips



LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS



Civility and good manners are hallmarks of USL students.
These are integral parts of public accountability.



Students engage
in a job shadow
every year to
explore careers

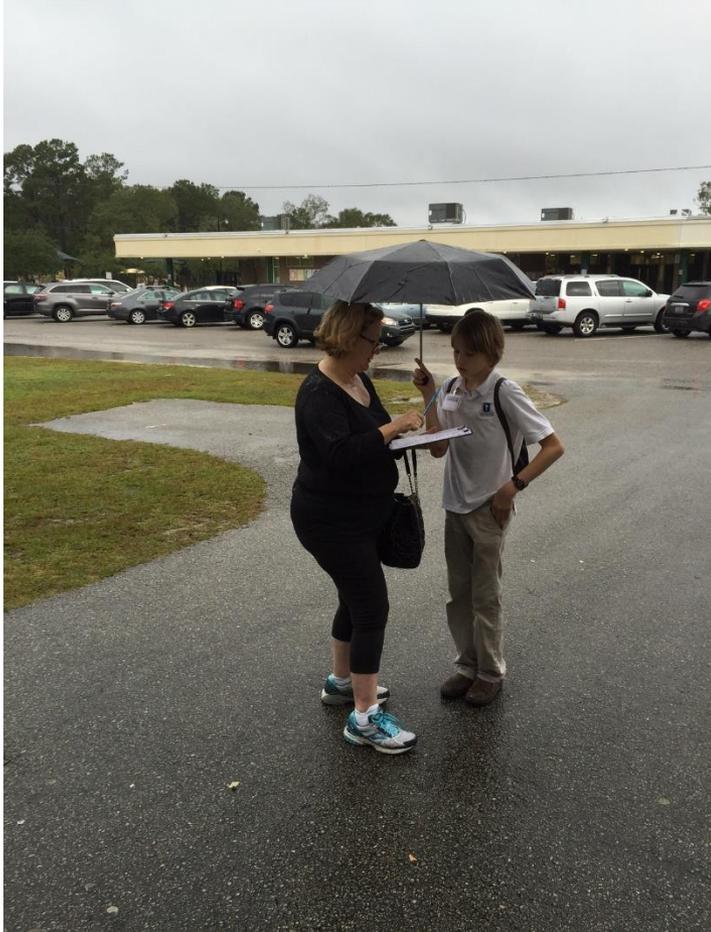




CITIZENSHIP



We conduct exit polls and make predictions on Election Day each November.





Students meet and hear from candidates and office holders from a wide array of political parties
(2016 presidential candidates, Donald Trump & Hillary Clinton)



COMMUNITY SERVICE



6 of our 13 projects for the 2015 Trident United Way's Day of Caring – an annual endeavor for USL!





MILITARY



McEntire
Joint
National
Guard
Base

-

F-16
Falcons
AH-64
Apaches
UH-60
Black
Hawks





CULTURES & PEOPLES



Oconaluftee Village of the Eastern Band of the
Cherokee Indians
MS Eastern TN/Western NC Trip (2013)



COLLEGES



Exploring Tuskegee University Middle School Trip (2017)



ARTS



Exploring Harper Lee's hometown of Monroeville, AL and then enjoying a performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the Dock Street Theatre (2017)





SCIENCE



Mullins, South Carolina
features the Tobacco Museum and
the SOPAKCO
Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) Factory
(2016)



FAITHS



Students explore 3-4 houses of worship each year – St. Michael's Anglican Church and KKBE Synagogue (2015)



Learning about the AME faith
from Pastor Clementa Pinckney
at "Mother" Emanuel (2012)





The Creche Festival at
Mepkin Abbey
(2015)



Exploring and talking with residents of three Amish homesteads in Lancaster, PA.



2015 MS Pennsylvania Trip



Central Mosque of Charleston (2008, 2013, 2016)



KKBE Reform
Synagogue (2015)



Emanu-El
Conservative
Synagogue (2012)



Annual Winter Exploration
of Faiths (2017)
Central Mosque of
Charleston, Greek
Orthodox Church of the
Holy Trinity, Kwanzaa.

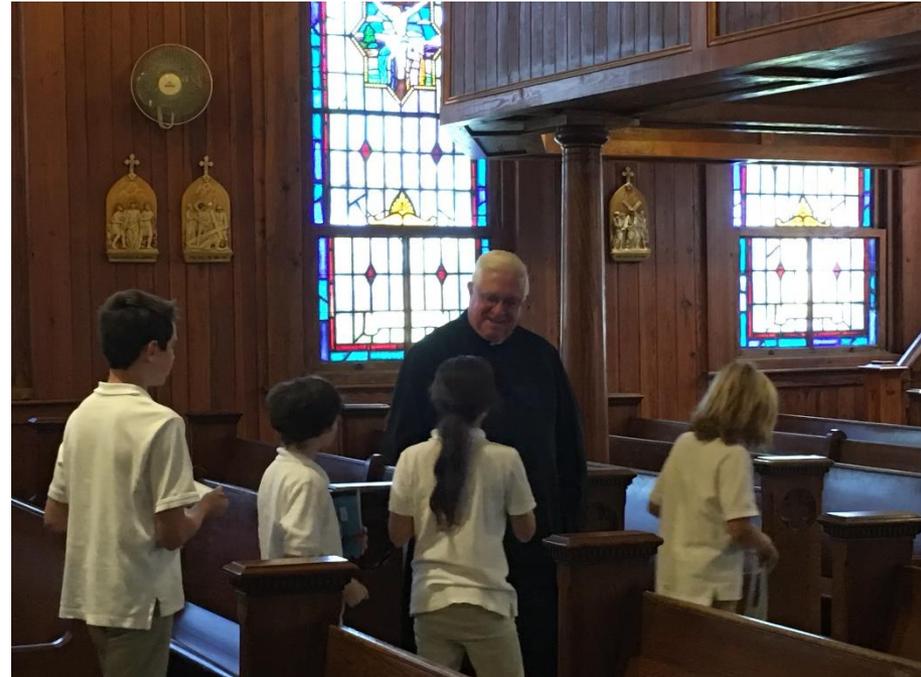




Tibetan Society of
Charleston (2010, 2014)



Hindu Temple &
Cultural Center of Charleston
(2010, 2014)



500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation – explored
St. Matthew's Lutheran and Stella Maris Catholic Churches
(2017)



“Number the Stars” and Dor Tikvah Orthodox Synagogue
(2018)



Questions?



Thank You!