



**SPRING 2020**

## **Course Descriptions: Journey Through North America**

### **Journey: A Grand Tour of the US**

This course will help to learn more about North and Central American countries, focusing on the geography of the USA, historic facts, holidays, famous places of interest and some less known facts about American laws. Will explore the everyday lifestyle of an average American and research many famous American companies to see how they have changed the whole world.

### **Journey: American Culture**

This course will explore U.S. cultural heritage of the past to understand how it impacts the world today. An exploration of Native American cultures will be undertaken through their stories of the past and their efforts of today to keep their culture alive. Other explorations will include: the Shakers, the oldest most successful utopian society in the U.S. founded by a woman, and the Amish and their fascinating lifestyle that steps back in time and rejects modernity.

### **Journey: Comparing Cultures**

Under the theme of “Comparing Cultures” we will look at the United States as it compares to the students’ various countries. Topics such as government, education, diversity, geography, traditions, lifestyle, among others will be covered. In addition to sharing their own observations and experiences, students will be encouraged to share their viewpoints in an effort to increase cross-cultural understanding and improve interpersonal communications.

### **Journey: Cultures and Beliefs**

Culture can be identified as one's world view which includes “experiences, expressions, symbols, materials, customs, behaviors, morals, values, attitudes, and beliefs created and communicated among individuals.” Culture is passed down from generation to generation as cultural traditions. From the Puritans to Hipsters, learn how American cultures have shaped the American belief system.

### **Journey: Major Events**

Planes, Trains, Automobiles...and Reality Stars! From the radio to the internet and everything in between. Learn about all the major events in American History that have shaped and made America.

### **Journey: Pop Culture**

Students will have the opportunity to share their home country's culture with one another and to compare it to key aspects of American life. Students will gain knowledge of US customs, rituals, celebrations, and important holidays. Students will examine their conflict resolution styles and learn strategies for more effectively resolving conflicts they will encounter while living abroad. They will better understand culture shock and how it can affect them both in the US and when returning home. Finally, students will learn about and experience the rich cultural diversity inherent in US communities, while discussing trends in areas such as music, arts, and mass media.

### **Journey: Road to Equity**

This course will explore how the United States has grown as a nation through history and those who struggled for freedom making our country what it is today. Topics will include slavery to civil rights, as well as the struggle of suffrage and other minority groups who have helped shaped our country.