

Title: Mongolia: Service and Culture
Location: Abroad
Instructor(s): Ms. Lauren Jackson
Capacity: 20 students, grades 8-12
Eligibility: : Students are required to attend a 15-minute information session about this trip before they sign up . Info sessions in Ms. Jackson's room 156 at the beginning of lunch, October 23 and 24. Please come to one of the sessions
Dates: May 18-25, 2019
Cost and Payment Information: \$3250 Some costs are currently estimated, such as flights, and the total may change. Everything is included except spending money for souvenirs and snacks. US citizens do not need visas to visit Mongolia, but students with passports from other countries will need to cover the cost of their own visa.
<p>Program Description and Location:</p> <p>The main activity for this FW course is working at the Verbist Care Center, an orphanage located in Ulaanbaatar. The Center cares for about 40 children aged 2 to 18. ICS students will plan activities, assist, and play with the children in daily indoor activities as well as take them on an outing outside the city. We will also work and play with the children of Rainbow Center who have significant learning disabilities. We will participate in other work to benefit VCC, such as helping the VCC staff prepare food and clean the kitchen and doing laundry. This Focus Week trip provides a blend of service and historical and cultural enrichment. Students will be challenged to provide activities and care for kids who are sometimes difficult to handle. The days are not particularly physical but are nevertheless exhausting. The Verbist Care Center was founded to help a growing number of street children living in steam tunnels in Ulaanbaatar. Fr. Matthieu Ndjeok, who runs the orphanage, will also take us around to significant historical and cultural sites in Ulaanbaatar and answer all our questions about what we're seeing, the traditional ger living style, the way Russian and Chinese culture have blended in Mongolia, and the issues of poverty in Mongolia. We will also get a good sense of the cuisine of Mongolia from some special meals, We will need one male chaperone who will pay for half the cost of the trip</p>
<p>Itinerary: (subject to change)</p> <p>Day 1 Sat/Sun (Ulaanbaatar is 15 hours ahead): Meet at Seatac Airport, 2 flights, arrival, bus to city, check in to hotel (across the street from VCC).</p> <p>Day 2 Mon: Meet children and play time in the morning, then cultural sightseeing & learning about Mongolian history: Zaisan (Russian WWI monument/view point)/ Tuul river, Sukhbaatar Square (see Chinggis Khaan statue and architecture), Visit the State Department Store (brief shopping opportunity), Ger Area/ Family, Supper in replica Mongol Emperor Ger</p> <p>Day 3 Tues: split ICS group, half to work at Rainbow Center, half at Verbist Care Center, small teams to work in kitchen for food prep, do dishes, etc. Play time with VCC kids after dinner</p> <p>Day 4 Weds: travel by bus/van to Handgait with all children from VCC and RC, outside the city, for outdoor play and seeing Mongolian animals</p> <p>Day 6 Thurs: same as Tues</p> <p>Day 7 Fri: stay in VCC and hotel to work on celebration/Variety Show for VCC and ICS students. Small group of teachers/students to buy gifts for VCC children. Playing with VCC children and celebration Mongolian BBQ dinner with Variety Show. Late night flight to Seoul.</p> <p>Day 8 Sat: Long layover in Seoul (approximately 7am to 3pm): travel by subway train to cultural district in city center: Gyeongbukgung Palace and Bukchon Hanok Village. Korean lunch. Back to Incheon for flight to Seattle. Arrive at Seatac mid-afternoon</p>