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## Miniterm Trips Blow Students Away

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Attention all juniors: my suggestion for everyone is to take a trip next Miniterm. This year we had students in Belize, Italy,



Cay Marine Lab. When not working, they explored the rainforest and snorkeled around the world's second-largest coral reef. At night the students fell asleep on the dock and watched the sunrise the next morning. Plus, each day they were served unique

eled all over Ireland, and saw major sites such as the Cliffs of Moher. Also, everywhere they looked, they saw ancient stonewall castles from the Middle Ages. On one island measuring twenty-seven square miles, there were over three hundred thousand miles of stonewall. Overall the landscape was beautiful, and the history they learned was fascinating.

Southeast Asia: One of the students of this trip used the phrase, "Incredible, the best three weeks of my life!" The trip lasted both Miniterm and the majority of spring break, making it the longest of any of the trips. The students spent their time in Thailand, Cambodia,

and Vietnam. Highlights of the trip include: seeing Ho Chi Minh (even though he's dead), riding a Ferris wheel at a

Bangkok.

Italy: Our students who traveled in Italy were able to see in person some of the most

important cities and sites in European history. The trip focused on art, architecture, and historical attractions. They visited Venice, the city on water, Rome, the capital of Italy and former capital of the Roman



Nice person who took the photo

South East Asia group

Empire, and Florence, the birthplace of Renaissance art, as well as Capri, Sienna, and Rivera. The highlights of the trip included the Sistine Chapel and amazing Italian food.

Everyone I interviewed was excited to be able to recite the memories of their trip. After talking to each person, I decided to spend my Miniterm next year in a foreign country, and I definitely invite the seniors of next year to do the same. To the juniors that already used their trip, there are many other options. The small trips were a huge success, as well as the classes. No matter what you decide, make sure it will be something you love.

### The Ireland trip at the Aran Isles

Southeast Asia, Japan, and Ireland. Additionally, there were also several shorter trips to areas inside and around North Carolina. The countries ranged far and wide, but all the students seemed to have one thing in common: they all had a great time. Being the fabulous (and modest) reporter that I am, I tracked down some of our world traveling peers to ask them about their Miniterm.

Belize: These students spent their Miniterm on a tropical island paradise. At Wee Wee Cay our peers worked in groups on biological research at the aptly named Wee Wee

Nice German Couple at the Isles

### Belizean specialties!

Japan: The student who traveled to Japan actually spent their Spring Breaks in Japan and were given Miniterm off. The first stop for these students was the sites of Japan. They visited popular tourist attractions, including the famous city of Hiroshima. Next they each stayed with a Japanese host family living in Iwate (where is Iwate?). During their stay with the host family, they gave a presentation to the Iwate High School.

Ireland: Even though it was cold and rainy, the students had a great time. They trav-



Kinkakuji temple in Kyoto

Laura Brown

## Students Research Rocks Symposium

YING LIU  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The day began like most typical Fridays. Students woke up reluctantly to face another ALT day, looking forward to the weekend. Only, on this day, words like Shiga Toxin B and Quinoxalines were heard alongside pieris rapae and cannabinoid receptors. Was NCSSM plunged into another world with a strange new language? No, it was the 19th

annual Research Symposium. Although some of the titles were difficult to understand, the presentations were excellent and the hard work of the students really shined through.

Students were required to attend one fifteen minute session before the break and one session after the break. However, many students attended more. Among the Siemens winners were "Responses to Global Warming in Pieris Rapae: con-

sequences of increased nocturnal temperature on fitness components" presented by Emily Hon, Maggie Thompson, and Alia Whitney-Johnson, "The Microwave Synthesis of Disubstituted Quinoxalines" presented by Monica Shah, Leah Hawkins and Yuki Jung, and "Discovery of an Seyfer II Active Galaxy Behind 3C397" presented by Drew Foster and Ivana Vu. There were also presentations from Miniterm, mentorship,

and research classes. Topics ranged from playwrights, to plastic, to exotic plants. Some of the most popular were the presentations from members of the Belize trip.

This research symposium was an opportunity for students to showcase their work, an opportunity not usually given at most schools. Grandparents were also invited to the research symposium, and most were impressed and enjoyed the day. Favorites

included presentations on aye-aye primates, gorillas, memory, and Armenian genocide. The wide range of topics provided something for everyone. "The research symposium offered many opportunities to view the research that fellow students have accomplished, said Connie Griffin, "This opportunity is unique to NCSSM."