



TESSERACT NINTH-GRADERS TO SPEND PART OF SECOND SEMESTER IN ITALY

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA –February 4, 2009– Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school—preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class starting fall 2009—announced today that its ninth-grade students will be spending part of their second semester in Italy as part of their humanities curriculum.

Tesseract's upper school curriculum includes a significant amount of project-based learning to help motivate students with material that challenges their abilities and work that is connected to the real world. While in Italy, the ninth-graders will be engaged in educator-led activities and projects that involve research, data acquisition and journaling. These activities will unite what they have been learning in class about the period of 400 BC to 400 AD with what they are seeing and experiencing firsthand. The project work will be conducted in various locations including Milan, Pompeii, Orvieto and Rome, where they will spend time at integral sites dating back to the Roman Empire. Upon their return, students will synthesize what they learned and present their findings to the Tesseract community, which will represent a significant portion of their grades for the semester. "This trip is an integral component of the ninth-grade curriculum," said Chris LaBonte, Tesseract School's director of middle and upper school. "Our students will be exposed to foreign language, history, archaeology and geology in very authentic ways. It is important for students to understand how the information they are learning in class relates to the real world. It is through hands-on experiences, such as these, that they truly feel that connection."

In Rome the ninth-graders will also spend time at a local school with a strong humanities curriculum. Tesseract's ninth-grade humanities educator, Jennifer Tyma, has been working with that school's humanities educator to establish an "e-pen pal" relationship with their students. "By beginning a dialogue with students in Rome now, the students can develop connections and curricular understanding that will allow them to make the most of their time together."

At Tesseract, class trips are an essential part of the curriculum for all grade levels. In the lower and middle schools, students experience a variety of local field trips, and in middle school, they also participate in a major curriculum-related trip. At Tesseract, students are prepared to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tying this philosophy and the school's curriculum together, Tesseract's fifth and sixth-grades alternate trips between the headquarters of Heifer International and locations in the San Francisco area where they learn about global resources and sustainable living. This year the students will be traveling to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area where they will work in teams to understand the ecology of this fragile ecosystem, and to San Francisco and China town in support of their studies of China.

Tesseract's seventh-grade students travel to Boston, Philadelphia and Washington D.C., where they support their American government and history curriculum by visiting key historical landmarks from 17th century colonial times through the Independence period to the modern day including Plimoth Plantation, the Salem Witch Museum, Independence Hall, the National



Archives, the Supreme Court and Congress. Tesseract's eighth-grade students travel to Costa Rica where they visit local schools and villages, organic farms, a women's cooperative, rainforests and the San Geraldo Biological Center to further their studies on sustainability and climate change. On this trip the eighth-graders also have the opportunity to utilize their Spanish-speaking skills; at Tesseract, Spanish is part of the core curriculum starting at age 3.

In addition to the classroom preparation for this spring's trip to Rome, Tesseract's ninth-graders are sponsoring a multi-family garage sale on Saturday, February 7 in the parking lot of Tesseract's middle and upper school campus at 3939 East Shea Boulevard in Phoenix. Items at the sale will include books, clothes, toys, furniture and household items. Proceeds from the sale will go to offset costs for the class trip.

About Tesseract School

Tesseract School is a non-profit, independent private school for students in preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class starting fall of 2009. The school's inaugural ninth-grade class started September 2008, along with the opening of its new middle and upper school campus. All grades, preschool through 12, will be available fall of 2011. Tesseract School has high academic standards, thematic learning and more than two decades of academic excellence. Tesseract fosters each student's intellect, love of learning and strength of character in an innovative and collaborative environment. It prepares students to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tesseract's lower school is located at 4800 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Tesseract's middle and high school is located at 3939 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85028. For more information visit www.tesseractschool.org or call 480-991-1770.

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