



To Whom It May Concern:

At York Country Day School, students are required to do Magnet projects of their own design. Following are the guidelines from the school handbook. My Magnet project about the Mason-Dixon Trail was completed on January 31, 2007.

The Magnet Program presents two paths to enrich our core academic program. The first path offers students the chance to explore a variety of interests in great detail, extending and supplementing the understanding and knowledge obtained through the core curriculum. The second path offers students the chance to excel, by focusing in depth on a limited area of study that goes well beyond the possibilities in any core curriculum. Specified time each week will be available for students and teachers to pursue in-depth explorations in one of four magnet areas: Humanities/Writing, Math/Science/Technology, Visual Art or Performing Arts. At the beginning of the semester a list of sub topics under each of these areas will be published. Each topic is offered by a specific faculty member and is designed to be general enough to encompass all areas of interests for students. Study in the Magnet Program will emphasize the development of each student's intellectual understanding and individual skills, and student writing will be central to each course of study.

Each semester of study will culminate in some form of authentic assessment in which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriate forum. This may mean participation in a Science or History Fair, submission of writings for publication, an art exhibition, a dramatic or musical performance, or a research paper accompanied by an oral exhibition and defense of the research. In each magnet area, teachers work with students to create individual curriculum plans that will direct the course of study and lead to the final exhibition.. Students are required to pass at least three semesters of the Magnet Program (Pass, Fail, Pass with Honors) during grades 9-12; junior or senior transfer students are required to take one magnet. Students who successfully complete at least four semesters within a single Magnet Program will earn a special diploma recognizing their area of specialized study.

I hope you enjoy reading my project. Much thanks is due to the Mason-Dixon Trail System, particularly Mr. Hooper and Mr. Grey. I also wish to thank Mr. Zemsky, the Head of Upper School at York Country Day, who helped me greatly with the writing of my project. I wish to thank my parents and my sister for hiking with me and allowing the project to happen.

Sincerely,

Molly Rogers