

SYLLABUS – Bentley School – Mini-term 2011

Take Your Camera for a Hike

Teacher: Dr. Fred Kral

Email: fred@kraltutoring.com

Website: <http://teach.kralsite.com>

Cell phone: Ask Ms. Feiner by calling 925-283-2101.

Classroom: Room 19. In addition we will do digital photo editing in the Art Room.

Course Description:

Imagine spending your mini-term taking in the beauty and wonder of the outdoors. We will take walks near Bentley including the Lafayette Reservoir, and hikes in parks such as Briones, Shell Ridge, and Las Trampas. While outdoors, you will take pictures of people, animals, objects, landscapes, and other parts of the natural world. At the end of the course you will make a photo book. We will study the geology and nature of the local sites. In addition, you will learn the basics of how to use your camera and the image-editing software. We will spend a significant amount of time walking and hiking.

Fitness requirement: You must be able to walk from Bentley to and around the Lafayette Reservoir and back. You must be able to walk up hilly and muddy trails such as the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail.

Clothing: BRING GOOD FOOTWEAR THAT CAN BE USED ON MUDDY TRAILS. Bring raingear.

Required materials: DIGITAL CAMERA (any camera will do), charged batteries, empty memory cards, and a USB flash drive.

Cell phones are encouraged on hikes for safety purposes.

Required text: None.

Transportation: Please ask your parents to volunteer to drive. We need two parents carrying 8 students/trip.

Grading:

- Attendance – Communicate planned absences and/or tardiness.
- Participation – join in the activities with energy and effort.
- Spirits – show good spirits in the face of adversity
- Photo Sharing – share your best photos with the school community, parents, yearbook, and/or *Aquila*
- Presentation
- Photo book – due online Wednesday March 9 at 11:00am by providing Book Id for purchase.
- Final Reflection

Presentation: You will give a 7-minute presentation on an aspect of the local area. Suggested topics include geology, nature, and history. You can also propose to present on a topic relevant to hiking or photography. The presentation is to be accompanied by a PDF file delivered via flash drive or download.

Note: You can work in Word or PowerPoint but the **presentation must be in PDF.**

Photo book: You will make an 8.5 in x 8.5 in square paperback photo book with 20 pages on <http://www.lulu.com>. The school will purchase your printed photo book and you will get to keep it. You must use your real first name but only your last initial and you must use your standard Bentley email address. If asked, use a Public account (but don't confuse with direct book access). Make sure to pick **PAPERBACK**. When publishing, the book needs to have "Direct Access" (not General or Public). Write your Book Id on the list in the classroom and also email it to the teacher, e.g. 6245124 for <http://www.lulu.com/content/6245124>. Build a full preview to share with the teacher and friends.

Final Reflection: Write a short reflection about your own experience of the course. A description of one event and what it meant to you would be best. Poems and haikus are allowed. You will need to type it and email it to the teacher. Be sure to write something you are willing to share with students, parents, teachers, and staff.