Introducing The Williams Center at Mt. Greylock
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What is it?
Since 2008, the Williams Center at Mt. Greylock (WC) has engaged college students, professors and resources throughout the Mt. Greylock curriculum and beyond. Williams students support Mt. Greylock students during the school day in writing, homework help, foreign languages, math, science, history and academic support. Increasingly, Williams students play the role of special enrichment group mentors or coaches. Williams professors and Mt. Greylock faculty also have the opportunity to work together on academic programs and curriculum. WC continues to pilot new ideas for college-school collaborations, offering special opportunities to enrich your student’s education.

How will WC enrich my student’s Mt. Greylock experience?

Williams Fellows Program at Greylock:
Williams Fellows are undergraduates who work with Mt. Greylock students in various classrooms and subject areas including writing, study skills, history, music, and middle school math, science, and Spanish. About 40 Williams students engage with MG students in various roles depending on student interest and MG faculty needs. Of particular note:

- **Writing Fellows** - Williams students support writing in selected middle and high school English classes through one-on-one dialogue and revision-based editing.
- **Afterschool Homework Help** - Free afterschool homework help is available for students in grades 7-9. Williams Fellows work one-on-one or in small subject groups with students on homework and study skills. This program is offered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 PM and is coordinated by middle school teacher, Marty Walter.

Extracurricular Groups:
These are special groups led by Williams Fellows who offer expertise and engage MG students beyond the classroom. Organizing and sustaining these groups is dependent on scheduling and student interest each year. If you are intrigued by any of the offerings below, please let me know so we can include you in any group emails.

- **Middle and High School After School Writing** - These two groups meets once weekly from 2:30 – 4:00 pm and are open to students interested in mentor/peer-supported writing activities and projects.
- **Envirotthon** - This group is open to 9-12th graders who have a passion for science and the environment. The group meets weekly on Sunday afternoons and culminates in a state-wide competition in May. Last year the group won 4th place overall!
- **EphsOut Loud** - Williams music students offer individual instrument and voice lessons to beginning and intermediate MG students. These sessions are based on scheduling and availability. They will be offered once weekly during directed study, once weekly after school and once weekly on Sunday afternoons at Williams. A small Glee Club may also be offered after school each week.
- **GreylockOutdoors** - A member of the Williams Outing Club offers outdoor skills and games once weekly after school for middle school students.
- **Model United Nation** - This group meets on Sunday afternoons or evenings at Williams.
We anticipate offering the following opportunities again this year:

**Academic Support at Williams and College Application Support:**
*The Williams Center offers academic support in one-on-one tutoring and study groups.*

**High school Tuesday evening tutoring** - Williams Fellows run weekly one-on-one or small group sessions with Mt. Greylock students on the Williams campus for subject-specific assistance. Students sign up with his or her guidance counselor for this program.

**High school science study groups** - Williams Fellows are available to lead study groups on the Williams campus in AP chemistry, physics, and biology (depending on the offerings/needs in any given year).

**Fee-based private tutoring options** - WC maintains a list of private Williams undergraduate tutors. The current rate for private tutoring is $15/hr. Tutoring sessions must take place in a public place on the Williams campus. Payment and scheduling is arranged independently between families and tutors.

**College essay coaching** - Williams students join experienced community members to provide one-on-one online feedback to Mt. Greylock seniors on their personal college essays. Contact guidance for more information about this free service.

**College application camp (at MG)** - Local college counselor and former Williams Admission Officer Beth Nesbitt offers a three-day program in June to juniors wishing to jump start their Common Application and their own college essays. Contact Beth at mesbitt@roadrunner.com.

**Field Studies and Special Academic Programs:**
*The Williams Center supports many “field studies”—one-day and short-format activities at Mt. Greylock, at Williams, and beyond. Highlights of past and ongoing field studies include:*

- **Astronomy** - Dr. Burdick’s astronomy class visits the Williams planetarium/telescopes.
- **AP Physics** - Four college-level labs are held on the Williams campus in collaboration with college department lab offerings.
- **GreylockTalks** - A collaboration between WC and the MG student council. This past year MG hosted Williams faculty Tiku Majumder, Pia Kohler, Jim Shepard and Rick Spalding as well as Williams student Jeffrey Rubel, ’18.
- **StoryTime @ MG** - Williams College student StoryBoard members present life stories to MG 7th-9th grade students. Last year Manami Diaz ’18 shared her story about her “global life,” Alex Huang ’17 shared his thoughts on Happiness, and Max Harmon ’18 shared stories from his 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail hike.
- **Human Library** - 7th grade English students attend the Human Library, a community understanding program at Williams.
- **Mandarin independent study** - This 1-2 year elective, taught by Williams students under the guidance of the Williams’ Chinese department, is available to high school students who have completed their high school language requirement.
- **MathBlast** - These hands-on math workshops for all Greylock 10th grade students and their teachers are taught at Williams each December by professors in the Williams math and statistics departments.
- **ScienceBlast** - All Greylock 11th graders and their teachers spend a morning in late spring at Williams sampling lab-based workshops taught by professors in psychology, biology, physics, chemistry, geoscience, astronomy, computer science, and neuroscience.
- **Visiting Professors** - Williams faculty and staff generously offer their time and expertise to visit MG classrooms. Of note this past year the school hosted the four Williams Chaplains, President Adam Falk, Prof. Bill Lenhart and Tom Powers (CDE).
- **’62 CenterSeries workshops** - Internationally-acclaimed guest performers visit Mt. Greylock as part of their Williams College residencies, and Mt. Greylock students attend free CenterSeries events at the college. This coming year students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops with the NYC Ballet, Toshi Reagon, Baba Brinkman, and Dorrance Dance.

Please contact Kaatje White (kwhite@williams.edu) for more information or to share ideas and questions. Look for WC happenings and schedules in your weekly MG Update and on the school website. Enjoy a wonderful start to the new school year!