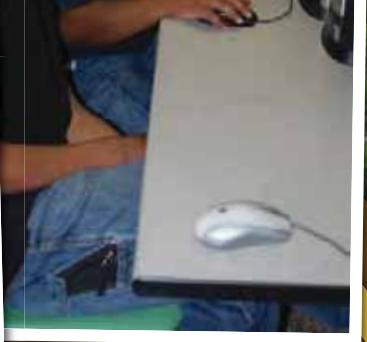
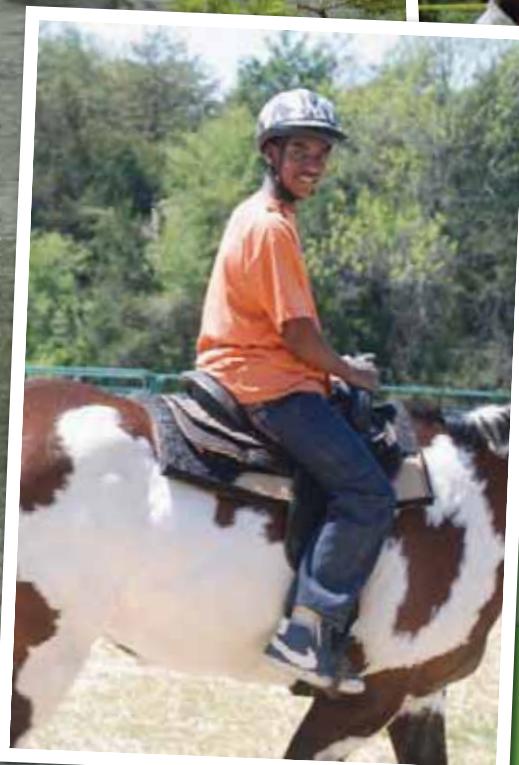


BEAR CREEK ACADEMY

Spring 2014



Celebrating 6 Years of Excellence in Therapeutic Education

From its early beginnings, Bear Creek Academy has continued to grow in its ability to accommodate an ever-growing group of students and help them reach personal and academic success. In just six short years, we have seen

over 20 positive transitions of students out of our program,
8 student transitions back into traditional classroom settings,
and 6 students earning diplomas or GED equivalents.

We believe that our journey of therapeutic and academic success has only just begun!

BEAR CREEK STATE PARK PAID INTERNSHIPS

In partnership with Bear Creek Lake State Park we offer a paid internship for students to work alongside a designated Ranger. Those students have the opportunity to develop real job skills and receive a hands-on education in conservation, environment, and natural resources. Wearing a park uniform, they are expected to carry themselves in a way that exhibits professionalism and represents both the school and the park appropriately.

"Bear Creek Academy and VA State Parks have a unique relationship. Groups of students volunteer and help maintain our facilities and natural resources. As they work, they are learning about our natural environment and completing assignments as a team. The students are trained with similar hand tools used by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Program Administration that developed our parks in the early 1930's.

BCA Staff recently nominated Domoniq Booker, who excelled in his studies and in his personal growth at school, to be a part of our internship program. Following a formal interview process, Domoniq was hired and received the same formal training as all other state park employees. During his internship, Domoniq became an asset to the park. In recognition of his hard work he has been hired to assist park operations for the summer of 2014."

-Ranger Chad Shelters

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Bear Creek Academy is new to mountain biking. Mountain biking is a sport that one of the teachers thought about.

Mountain biking is a fun sport and challenging sport. Mr.

Whiley was inspired because he is a cyclist and wants some of the students at the school to be part of a team. Some of the sponsors are local bike shops, Black Water Bike Shop, Cutaway Clothing and Starlight Apparel helped with our uniforms. The students who are on the team were selected based on their interests and their progress at the school. We try to practice three times a week depending on the weather. We compete against several other private schools and other schools in Virginia. The team is doing good, making good progress, and having fun. The students are learning mountain biking skills, the importance of hard work, how to be on a team, and how to push themselves over obstacles.

The mountain biking team is a good sport and kids get to have fun. Some of the benefits are being able to be on a team and being with friends.

By Domoniq Booker

4-H GARDEN

On the grounds of the Cumberland Community Center a thriving garden has been producing a healthy assortment of vegetables and fruits throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall. David Smith of the Cumberland 4-H acquired a grant through the Virginia Extension Agency and invited Bear Creek Academy to join forces with 4-H to break ground and create a garden.

The garden is a convenient and effective educational tool for our staff which provides students of Earth Science and Biology a hands-on "lab" setting with tangible results. Students with special educational needs and emotional challenges also benefit therapeutically from the garden, where the experiential learning opportunities help them to develop self esteem and a genuine sense of accomplishment.



MASONRY INTERNSHIP

Four BCA students really got their hands dirty as they experienced the art and business of the masonry trade firsthand. Qualifying with their academic efforts and success, the students were approved for a three week internship at Bear Creek



Lake State Park under the tutelage of Earl Jenkins, a professional mason from the Eastern Shore of Virginia who has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps for several years. The students spent their time restoring a vintage stone barbecue pit in the Park's Acorn Loop campground

A successful mason and businessman, Mr. Jenkins taught the students the basic skills and concepts of masonry and imparted life lessons on frugality and resource management. Passionate about his work, he demanded quality work from his students, insisting that each lesson be learned carefully. Patiently working with each student as they learned new skills, Jenkins also celebrated each success with pride and enthusiasm.

Nothing can open a student's eyes better than applied learning. These students left this experience with a sense of accomplishment, a respect for hard work and quality, and an appreciation for the value of a trade skill. They also left with their own spades, courtesy of Mr. Jenkins.

"Bear Creek Academy has developed a program firmly grounded in the Three Rs - Respect yourself, be Responsible, and use your Resources to learn. At Bear Creek every youth is challenged to be better every day."

-Alice Metts, Cumberland CSA



CLUB DAY

If you ever visit Bear Creek Academy on club day you might smell the aroma of an ethnic dish being prepared in the Cafe by students and staff. You may also see students being challenged to get their teammates through a giant web of rope without touching the sides. Students may be also be practicing orienteering or archery with Linda Eanes of the Cumberland 4-H club or holiday centerpieces with Jean Taylor of the Redbud Garden Club.



Club Day is a time to explore new activities and gain exposure to a wide variety of crafts. Students participate in various interactive workshops that serve as creative outlets for them to expand their skills and minds. Each activity features an educational or therapeutic component, reinforcing the students' overall learning and social development.

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Adventurers with Enthusiasm (AWE) is our brand of learning through adventure and therapeutic activities. Students increase their self-esteem and confidence as they engage with peers in participating ropes courses in the region. AWE activities include:

- Climbing 60 foot Alpine Towers
- Completing the challenging elements at Sandy River Adventure Park
- Hiking and exploring the Cumberland State Forest
- Canoeing at Bear Creek Lake State Park

These adventures give students the opportunity to learn and develop cooperation, communication, social interaction, teamwork, and problem solving skills.



The **ART** program introduces a variety of art content and skills by which all students can develop the ability to create and critically evaluate works of art.



ART

Students observe the relevancy of art and art history in today's culture and visual culture, make connections through cross curriculum and are introduced to modern career opportunities relating to art.

BEAR CREEK ACADEMY
1874 Anderson Highway, P.O. Box 192
Cumberland, VA 23040

phone: 804.492.9940

fax: 804.492.9942

admissions@bearcreekacademy.org

Our Staff

THE FOUNDERS

Jordan Whiley, Administrator

20 years educational experience
Master's Degree in Teaching, University of Virginia
Professional experience as a counselor, Lead Special Education Teacher, entrepreneur, and administrator.
Professional certification as a Licensed USA Cycling Coach



Benjamin Montano, Director of Therapeutic Services - 21 years educational experience

Master's of College and Community Counseling, Longwood University
Professional experience as a counselor, program director, administrator, and in-home therapist (Attachment and Trauma issues).
Professional service with the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities, and the National Association of Therapeutic Schools.

Jason Paulin, Director of Education - 18 years educational experience

Master's Degree in Special Education from James Madison University
Professional experience as a counselor, teacher, special education teacher, Director of Experiential Education, Program Director, and public school case manager.

Jason Lake, Director of Experiential Education - 18 years educational experience

Master's of College and Community Counseling, Longwood University
Professional experience as a counselor and Regional Director of Experiential Education (VA, NC, MD, IN).
Professional service with the Association for Challenge Course Technicians and Alpine Towers International.
Professional certifications as a First Responder, a master facilitator for Satori Alternatives to Managing Aggression, and as a White-Water Canoe Instructor.

THE STAFF

Kourtney Cabaniss English/Reading Teacher

Master's Degree in Liberal Studies: Special Education with a Certificate in Autism, Longwood University
Professional experience teaching in schools, camp, and therapeutic programs for Autism using ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis).
Professional certification in middle school English and history.

Jarrod Lisker, Mathematics Teacher - 17 years educational experience

Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Professional experience as Supervisor for Math program at Powhatan county schools.

Melissa Sims, Art Teacher

Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts (photography), James Madison University
Professional Licensure for PK-12th grade, from James Madison University
Professional experience as a teacher and lead teacher.
Volunteer service in children's programs, both domestic and international.

Wyaneka Brown, Office Manager / Therapeutic Advocate

Bachelors of Science, Computer Information Systems, Virginia State University
Masters of Business Administration w/concentration in Information Systems, Strayer University (December 2014)
Professional experience as a teaching assistant.
Professional Training as a Child Associate with Primary Project and the Washington, D.C. Department of Mental Health.

Quick Facts:

- * DOE Approval to increase maximum enrollment from 24 to 40 students
- * No tuition increase in 2013
- * Since 2008, BCA has grown from 9 students to over 25
- * BCA donated \$5,000 to the local county food bank program, which had lost its grant funding.
- * 2 new teachers and a full-time therapeutic advocate
- * BCA Conservation Corp hours from 2008-present = 2723

Quintin Aldridge, Counselor / Sports Management

Professional experience with Boys and Girls Clubs of America.
Professional training in special education.

Annie Ramsay, Counselor

Bachelor of Arts in psychology,
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Master's degree in counseling (in process)
Professional experience as a counselor, community counselor, and therapeutic counselor.

Tony Brooks, Paraprofessional

Master of Science in Environmental Management, Webster University
Ph.D Candidate, Northcentral University