



**YINGHUA  
ACADEMY**

1616 Buchanan St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413  
phone: 612.788.9095  
fax: 612.788.9079

August 6, 2015

Dear Parents of Students Entering Grades 6-8,

I hope you are enjoying your summer! Alas, it will be over all too soon. As you prepare for the start of the new school year, we wanted to remind you of the fall retreat.

This year will mark YA's 4th annual middle school retreat! Retreats are a great way to kick off the school year; the goal being to promote self-discovery, community and friendship across grade levels. It's a great way for students and teachers to connect as classes get underway while also experiencing a wonderful time of adventure, team building, and fun in the great outdoors!

This year we will be going to the *Audubon Center of the North Woods* in Sandstone, MN. The ACNW has a long history of providing top notch environmental education programs for schools. I have been there many times and its one of my favorites! To quote from their website:

Over the last four decades, ACNW has educated over 210,000 K-12, college, graduate, family, Road Scholar, and community participants about the environment and our relationships to it. We do this through formal [we are a certified school — North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and field campus to Northland College, Hamline University and other post-secondary schools] and informal education programs, research initiatives, and community outreach that work to restore, maintain, and preserve environmental integrity. The Center uses nature, art, science, history, cultural studies, literature, adventure and team building to give hands-on experiences. ACNW brings people together to learn about our connections to each other and the natural world. Over the last ten years, the Center has committed to an extensive program of renewable energy and has become one of the state's leaders in this significant area.

The staff at ACNW are professionals, trained to work with youth in an outdoor setting. In addition, they are trained in first aid and CPR, and many are certified Wilderness First Responders. While on the retreat the students will stay in a dorm with a YA teacher chaperones and will be under adult supervision at all times.

During the retreat students will spend most of their day outside learning about Minnesota wildlife (including live birds of prey and falconry!), forest and fresh water ecology, and Wilderness Survival. Culturally, students may learn about Ojibwa heritage and the Voyageur Fur Trade, recycling, and sustainable energy. There will also be team building games and challenges, campfires, hiking, and high ropes courses! All classes and activities will be age appropriate and led by ACNW or Yinghua Academy staff member.

**Please continue to the other side of this letter for more detailed information about the retreat.**

**-OVER-**





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### GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Who:** All students in grades 6-8
- **Dates:** Wednesday, September 16 – Friday, September 18, 2015
  - Leave YA @ 7:30AM on Wednesday & return on Friday between 3-6:00PM (Exact time TBD)
- **Cost:** \$195 (Includes transportation in school buses, meals, lodging, chaperones, & all retreat activities)

### Included with this letter are the following forms:

- **Yinghua Permission & Billing Form** – One copy must be filled out for each child participating. This form grants your child permission to attend the retreat and includes billing information.
- **Audubon Center of the North Woods Liability Release Form** – One copy must be filled out for each child participating in the retreat.
- **Note from the Health Office** – Note from the YA Health Office for all parents of students requiring medication while on the retreat.

**\*IMPORTANT\* - ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE MAIN OFFICE WITH PAYMENT NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015 – MEET YOUR TEACHER NIGHT!**

\*Please also shoot me a quick email or phone call to let me know if your child has any dietary restrictions so I can pass that information along to the ACNW.

Parents/guardians are advised that all middle school teachers and administrators will be going as chaperones on the retreat. Student attendance at the retreat is therefore strongly encouraged. **Parents of students who are absent from the retreat must submit written explanation of the absence to Mrs. Berg & Mr. Brewer two weeks prior to the retreat as this affects billing for the retreat.** Students who do not attend will be expected to come to school all three days and work on independent study projects related to the topics explored during the retreat.

For more information about the ACNW check out their website at [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org).

If you have specific questions about the retreat, please contact me directly 612-788-9095 or [jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org).

I will also send out additional information about the retreat (packing lists, schedule, etc.) at the end of August.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brewer  
Dean of Students

Sue Berg  
Executive Director

