FULL STEAM AHEAD
Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math...important subjects today, vitally important in Norfolk, Virginia as well.

Day 1
Arrive to Norfolk, Virginia in the early afternoon to explore the Chrysler Museum of Art and The Perry Glass Studio with a combination tour including a live demonstration and guided 45-minute tour. Students can investigate history, science, and more through the lense of glass with the “History and Science of Glass,” program. From the ancient Romans and Egyptians to modern artists, the works of glass in the museum’s collection teach not only about history and science, but art, technology, and culture as well. Or with the “Science of Glass” program students can explore several kinds of science through taking a closer look at glass as both a liquid and a solid. Students will discover the roles that chemistry, earth science, and physics play in working with this seemingly magic material in this live demonstration. Off to dinner at California Pizza Kitchen. Treat the group to a behind-the-scenes restaurant tour, which includes an interactive pizza-making demo from a certified pizza chef. This tour gives students a glimpse into how kitchens and chefs make delicious culinary magic happen. A fun, unique opportunity to discover how a restaurant works from the inside out!

Ever wonder how, when and where the waffle cone was invented? Get all of those answers at Doumar’s! Stop for ice cream with a famous waffle cone from Doumar’s, where Abe Doumar invented the waffle cone by taking a waffle and rolling it into a cone, to which he added ice cream. Doumar’s continues to bake cones on the original cone machine even today. Students will take delight learning the history of how the cone was invented while watching the Doumar family make freshly made cones from the original machine with advanced notice.

Day 2
Head over to The Virginia Zoo and discover the wildlife! Spot lions, tigers and many more animals onboard a train that runs throughout the Zoo with stops along the way. The Virginia Zoo’s education department is also available to provide student education classes and other wild experiences such as “Zoo Labs”. With Zoo Labs students will strengthen their understanding of animals and conservation. This program allows students enough time to collect, record, and interpret data with hands on experiences.

For lunch the Zoo offers many options for students such as the African Village Café and The Beastro.

Time to Perform! The Virginia Arts Festival offers unparalleled opportunities to explore the beauty and power of the arts with your students. Choose special student matinee performances to share the thrill of live performance in a theater or concert hall, then incorporate the experience into class discussions and projects that open your students’ minds to new ways of learning.

Day 3
Time to Dance and Dine! Have dinner aboard The Spirit of Norfolk where students can enjoy a nautical setting with dancing, great food and live entertainment all while enjoying the panoramic skyline of Norfolk.

Spend the morning at Nauticus and explore The Battleship Wisconsin, Nauticus is an interactive science and technology center where students can learn what it feels like to be in the shoes of a United States Navy Sailor aboard the Battleship Wisconsin, one of the last and largest battleships built by the U.S. Navy. Then students can walk through the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and experience 200 years of naval history in Coastal Virginia. Nauticus offers students a number of educational programs such as Simple Machines Made Simple. In this program students will identify and locate the six standard types of simple machines on the Battleship Wisconsin. Nauticus also offers the Watershed Workshop where students will discover how we are all connected to our watershed by examining our aquatic habitat.

For lunch Nauticus offers a café with outdoor and indoor seating.

Let the stage be your classroom with The Virginia Stage Company!
Award-winning directors, designers, and actors participate in a talk-back session with the students directly following each performance giving students an opportunity to interact with professional artisans & technicians. Do not forget to check out the Virginia Opera and Virginia Symphony Orchestra which are also both located in Norfolk and offer student programing throughout the year as well.

Waterside District offers an incredible setting for student events of any size, menu or budget. Waterside District has spaces to accommodate student groups from 5 to 500 size from private spaces, entertainment venues to public restaurants.

Make it and take it at The Mermaid Factory. The mermaids were originally created over 20 years ago as a public art fundraiser. The mermaid has become the official symbol of Norfolk and can be found throughout the city. Students can paint and design their own mermaid to take home as a souvenir. It is an ideal blank canvas to inspire creativity.

Dinner - Located in downtown Norfolk, Omar's Carriage House is sure to please! This historic site in Norfolk was built in the early 1840's, when the patrons then were horses. From the first floor, if you look up at the center of the room, students will see the large opening where hay used to be loaded into carriages.

Before heading back to school make a stop at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. The garden is Virginia’s largest botanical garden and offers students numerous educational opportunities. Students will discuss the differences between plant and animal cells, explore the plant cell structure and organelle functions. Students will learn, and demonstrate how, plant's energy is passed through the food web, and what role they play in their habitat.

Discover local artists and their studios with a guided tour of the NEON District. The NEON District is an environment where working artists are a part of an interactive arts community that engages the public through the experience of art and the creative process. The NEON District offers student of all ages first hands inactive programs, which include workshops, hands-on make and take projects and artist lectures and demonstrations.

Enjoy lunch and shopping at MacArthur Center, 1 million square-foot, with more than 100 new-to-the-market retailers and restaurants.

Explore wetlands and the riverbank at the Hermitage Foundation Museum. The museum and gardens consist of a world-wide art collection and contemporary exhibition galleries, all surrounded by twelve acres of formal gardens and natural woodlands. “The Wetlands Enrichment Tour or WET” is a hand-on outdoor educational program aimed at bringing the living shoreline restoration to life for students. Tour the boardwalk while observing and touching live creatures found in the wetlands, build a wetland model and record experiment findings.