



# North Cross School

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **NORTH CROSS STUDENTS ATTEND LANGUAGE VILLAGE SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

July 16, 2014 (ROANOKE, VA) –Five students from North Cross School participated in the Concordia Language Villages program by attending a one-week session at *El Lago del Bosque*, the Spanish Language Village, located near Bemidji, Minn., in June. The participating students were Hannah Bates, Jadon Bjurman-Birr, Jessica Helmer, Chloe Hunt, and Finn Walker. All students just completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at North Cross School.

By attending *El Lago del Bosque*, the Spanish Language Village, the students experienced a simulated visit to another country. They were issued passports, exchanged currency and adopted new names. By interacting with staff from all over the world, the students also learned about the many opportunities available to those who speak more than one language. The students were immersed in the language and culture of another country through large and small learning groups, authentic foods, holiday celebrations, re-enactments of historic events, songs, dances, crafts, games and everyday conversations.

The experience was arranged by Spanish instructor Mariana Hermosilla. “I decided that as part of the evolution of the new Spanish program at North Cross School, I would give my students this "Grand Simulation" experience. Our Spanish program is orally based, and I felt students needed to put their skills and all they have learned to practice,” Hermosilla said. “Parents were very supportive of my idea as they feel students have to be challenged to take on new objectives. Concordia Language Villages is definitely a great place to set new language objectives for younger students who are planning to do cultural exchanges in the near future.”

Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., is a recognized leader in global education offering 15 world language programs. Concordia Language Villages attracts more than 10,000 youth, educators and adults annually from all 50 states and more than 40 countries. Youth ages 7-18 and adults of all language

experience levels can take advantage of on-site learning options ranging from a weekend to four weeks.

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**About North Cross School**

*North Cross School is a college-preparatory day school grounded in a strong liberal arts and science curriculum combined with exceptional co-curricular programs. The academic program, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, prepares students to become responsible, successful citizens by encouraging them to explore their interests and develop their talents. The School is located at 4254 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA, 24018. For more information, visit [www.northcross.org](http://www.northcross.org).*