

SUMMER 2021 STEP UP PROGRAMS

Due to the pandemic, many students in Holmdel have suffered anywhere from 6-9 months learning loss. Through our testing programs we have identified a number of students that have fallen below grade level. The Summer Step Up Programs will support student readiness for their next grade level/course by reinforcing priority content and skills.

Participation in these programs is by invitation only. Parents will be contacted with specific information should their child be identified for summer support.

FAQ Sheet

When can we expect to see the test scores from this year?

- NWEA MAP Student Progress Reports are sent to parents 3x's a year after each time the students take the assessments.
- Test scores, including MAP, can also be found on PowerSchool.

Will the program be in-person or virtual?

- The programs will be primarily in person. Some will be virtual and some may be a hybrid. When parents receive an invitation for their child to participate they will be notified of the program details at that time.

If virtual, will the instruction be live or only classwork assignments?

- For virtual programs, students will work with the teacher in real time. Students may be asked to complete assignments for additional practice.

Where will the classes be held?

- The Summer Step Up Classes will be held at Indian Hill School and the Satz/High School complex.

How many days a week will the program run?

- The number of days per week depends on the program. Parents will receive the details for their program(s) in their invitation letter.

Is transportation provided?

- Busing is not available for the Summer Step Up Programs.

Is there a fee associated with the program?

- The Summer Step Up Programs are funded by Federal ESEA and ESSER grants. These programs are offered at no cost to parents.

Can a student stop participating in the program at any time?

- Parents can decide to withdraw their child from a program. Parents should notify the teacher. Parents are asked to do so in a timely manner.

Can a student miss days due to a pre-planned vacation?

- We know that students may miss days due to other commitments. The instructional is sequential. Parents are asked to ensure that students attend as regularly as possible and communicate with the teacher if their child is going to be absent.

Can a student join mid-session?

- No, students may not join mid-session. Participation is by invitation only. Parents will receive a letter of invitation for participation at the start of a session.

Can a student participate half-day?

- Students will be invited to participate in a particular session and asked to attend for the entire session.
- Parents of students invited to participate will receive letters with all the program details.

Will participants be able to change their session topic?

- No, students will not be able to change a session. Participation in a session is by invitation only.
- Parents of invited students will receive a letter of invitation prior to the start of a session.

What is the max number of students per group?

- Groups will be approximately 12 students for most programs. Some programs will be offered to smaller groups to meet their specific needs. The teacher/student ratio will be 1/12.

Is it available to siblings?

- Participation in the Summer Step Up Programs is by invitation only. Parents will receive letters with the specific details for their child(ren).

Is the program open to all students, regardless of how they perform in school?

- Students will be identified for participation based on their Winter and Spring assessment scores.
- Participation in the Summer Step Up Programs is by invitation only. Parents will receive letters with the specific details for their child(ren).

Will progress reports be provided at the end of the program?

- Parents will receive a progress report midway through the program and again at the end.

Will parents/guardians be notified if a student is considered at-risk?

- Students whose assessment data shows that they were at-risk in the Winter/Spring will be invited to participate in the academic Step Up Programs.

How are students grouped; by age, grade, academic level, or will it be mixed?

- Currently the plan is to group students by the grade level they will be entering in the Fall. If students are identified for a skill group this may result in a mixed grade group.

What subject areas will be included?

- Currently we are making plans for Step Up programs to support students going into grades 1-8 in Reading and Math and into specific courses at the high school level such as Algebra 1.
- Parent feedback is an important part of this decision making process.

Is the program intended for students to practice and reinforce?

- The goal of the Summer Step Up Programs is to support student readiness for their next grade level by reinforcing priority content and skills.

Will there be an overview beforehand?

- Parents will be invited to an informational meeting prior to the start of the programs.
- Parents will receive a welcome letter from their child's teacher that will outline the program goals.

Are there ways to prepare students for Step Up?

- At this time your child does not need to do anything special to prepare for the Summer Step Up Programs.
- If your child is invited to participate in a Summer Step Up Program you will receive a letter with the program details which may include directions for picking up materials.
 - You will also receive a welcome letter from your child's teacher that may outline additional steps to get ready for the program.

Will the summer program affect the student's grades?

- The Summer Step Up Program will not directly impact a student's grades. However, the goal is for the program to support student readiness for the next grade/course, indirectly impacting grades in a positive way.

What are the specific goals hoped to be reached by the summer program?

- The goals of the Summer Step Up Programs are to "support student readiness for their next grade level by reinforcing priority content and skills".
- The goals for each specific program will be set by the district staff to best support the outcomes for each program.

- Parents/guardians of students invited to participate will be invited to an informational meeting. They will receive a letter detailing the program the child is invited to attend. In addition, the teachers will reach out with welcome information further outlining the program goals.