Summer 2023 Program Recap

Board of Education
October 18, 2023
Welcome & Introductions

Presenters:

- Dr. Lisa Mulhall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Dr. Jaimie Kanter, Director of English Language Arts
- Ms. Marisol Pepushaj, High School Student
- Dr. Maggie Hoddinott Konrad, Supervisor of Elementary Education
Guiding Questions

• How can we better see and respond to the students in front of us?

• How can we maximize student engagement and our own creativity/innovation?
Over 30 Curiosity Camps for elementary students

Almost 20 additional secondary enrichment opportunities

Academic supports, extensions, & jumpstarts

Summer Programs 2023
Curiosity Camps

- French & Italian Language Exploration
- Don’t Eat the Art!
- Games Around the World
- Let’s Get Cooking
Create opportunities for students to engage in summer reading
Provide a resource for students and parents to find great texts to read over the summer
Create viral energy around great books!
Build connections and community with our elementary and high school students
Check out the book options and summaries on our Reading with the Huskies website

Choose a book

Sign Up on Family ID for the book and corresponding date

Read!

Join Zoom meetup to talk about the book with one of our high school students

Keep Reading
The Last Kids on Earth - Marisol & Annelise
“As I understand, this is the first year for this program. I was so impressed with it! My son came home from school with a good deal of excitement. He was excited to meet a high school student. The book was read completely independently and he needed little prodding about the deadline. Highly unusual for us! I think this is a wonderful way to entice children to keep up with their reading in the summer. The book seemed to be enjoyable for him as well. He chose Genius Files and he did mention that it was slightly scary but overall I think he enjoyed it. The zoom sounded successful and the HS student, Lana, was very engaging with the students.

Thank you for creating such a fun summer program around reading!” - a Harrison Avenue Parent
“Thank you for creating such an innovative approach to encourage our kids to read” - a Harrison Avenue parent

“Watching our high schoolers engage with our elementary students through books was inspiring.” - Mrs. Dominique Payano, Instructional Specialist
Updates to Bridges to Literacy

• Return instructional focus to early literacy (K-2)
• Provide smaller-group instruction
• Personalize learning based on each child’s unique literacy needs
• Embed more opportunities for authentic reading and writing
• Include an encore enrichment period
"This summer Bridges program seemed much more purposeful than last summer. The sole focus on literacy is extremely helpful. "
Bridges to Literacy- Teacher Feedback

- The **small group size** allowed for more personalized learning.

- The **structure** of the program this year really met students’ needs.
“Having **encore** was nice break and enrichment for kids as they are working hard for the 3 hours and gave teachers time with smaller groups. “
Bridges to Literacy Student Survey

• 100% of participating students felt they grew as a reader during the Bridges program

• After Bridges, students felt more positive about
  – Reading in general
  – Themselves as readers
I just wanted to reach out to let you know that my son's writing has improved tremendously since doing the summer Bridges program. I notice such a difference in his writing between the end of last year and the beginning of this year. Even better, I think he enjoys it now! Thank you so much for your hard work this summer - you did a great job!

Thank you!
Feedback from Secondary Students

In the College Essay course...

“I was so appreciative of the feedback I received from teachers and my peers.”

“...Without this course, I am not sure I would have gotten this far in my college essay.”

“This course allowed me to brainstorm, edit and revise my college essay. I’m really happy where I landed.”

160 students attended Summer & Fall College Essay Sessions
Professional Learning this Summer

• 42 Courses
• 644 Registrations
• 210 Teachers Participating
A Wide Range of Course Offerings
A New & Eye-Opening Way to Think about my Classroom Library
Continuing the Work with Teachers…. 