Frequently Asked Questions
English Language and American Culture Summer Program
July 5-25, 2026

Who may attend?
Our English Language and American Culture (ELAC) program is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen individual English skills and then take advantage of outdoor activities in New England. This boarding program also helps prepare students for attending boarding school for the elementary or secondary school levels. Our program is a blend of academic practice in the areas of English learning, the Sciences, American History, and the Performing Arts as well as boarding readiness, with summertime fun. It is most beneficial if the student has a basic understanding of English in order to follow instructions and course material. We welcome applications from girls and boys entering grades 4-7 from all over the world!

Do I need to apply?
Registration will open in December. To reserve your place, the student must be registered and a non-refundable deposit paid. Registered students must also complete a handwritten essay and supply a letter of recommendation from their current English teacher prior to March 15. Families will also need to complete permission forms and provide emergency contact information, medical history, and immunization records by June 1 in order to participate. To indicate your interest in registering, you may contact Emma O'Neal.

What is the cost to attend?
The tuition is $10,000. This is all inclusive of deposit, tuition, room and board, field trips, and activities. A non refundable $5000 deposit is due at registration. Final payment ($5000) is due June 1. Transportation to and from campus is not provided.

Do I need an I-20 visa to study at Bement's ELAC program?
ELAC students do not need to obtain an I-20 visa to participate at Bement's summer programs. Because our program has less than 18 hours per week of coursework and does not grant credit towards a degree, students are permitted to obtain a B-2 visitor visa. You can find more information on the visitor visa qualifications here.

Will your program provide invitation letters for visa applications?
We can provide you with an invitation letter if you need one for your visitor visa application. Please contact Kim Loughlin if this is needed. Letters of invitation will be issued once a student is fully enrolled in the program and all payments have been made.

What is dormitory life like?
We are delighted to have two spacious, modern dormitories for our boarding students. Students have one, two, or three roommates. The building is air-conditioned for comfort during the summer months. There is one dorm parent on duty on each floor at all times. There are kitchens for preparing snacks and a common room for relaxing and socializing. Each bedroom has a lofted bed, dressers, a desk and chair, and closet space. Linens are provided and laundry service is available.

Who will look after me during my stay at Bement?
We have a team of teachers, dorm parents, and activities instructors eager to get to know our ELAC students. They will help with homework, take you on field trips, help you feel settled in the dormitories, and make you feel at home.

What should I wear?
Dress is always casual and New England summers can be humid so shorts, sneakers or sandals, and lightweight shirts are all that is necessary. And don't forget your bathing suit! A packing list will be provided after registration is complete.

What if I am homesick?
Especially if this is your first time away from home, adjustments to new environments can be hard. Our staff is prepared to do their best at making you feel comfortable and safe. We also have a very busy schedule at Bement so that we can keep your mind on having fun!

Will I have access to a telephone and email?
Students should bring a cell phone or device with them, but please know that cell phones may not be with you during your camp day. Your free time in the evening and weekends is the best time to contact friends and family.

Can my family visit me?
Families are welcome to visit during a student's stay at Bement. Please understand in advance that our schedule is very busy and therefore it might be difficult to get in touch with and/or visit students. The best time to visit is during the afternoons before dinner.

What will I study?
The program will cover English, science, American History, and public speaking. Each student studies all four areas. Classes are small, with some homework. Students will also have daily morning meetings and seminars where the program director will discuss life as a boarding student and the director of admission will talk about applying to boarding schools in the US. Part

of afternoon enrichment will include drama and students will perform a play at the end of the session!

Will I earn grades in my courses?
Parents and consultants will receive an end of term report from the summer programs director, as well as the teachers, via email. No letter or numerical grade is assigned to a student's achievement, rather a substantive written assessment which discusses topics covered for the program and possible areas of growth for the student. Students will receive a certificate of attendance.

What will I do after my classes are over in the afternoon and evening?
When your morning classes are over, you and your peers will participate in some fun and educational enrichment programs during the afternoon. These could include a local hike up one of New England's well known mountains, a kayak trip down one of Massachusetts beautiful rivers, a performance of a local play, historic trips in Old Deerfield, a swim in one of our local lakes or physical education activities that are fun for all. In the evenings, you will have some time to relax in the dorm, work on homework, and call home.

What will I do over the weekend?
Weekends are a lot of fun at Bement! You will visit areas throughout New England. With Boston and New York City only being hours away from our campus, the weekends will be a time for students to travel and learn of the culture around them. A campus tour of Harvard, MIT, and Deerfield Academy will be scheduled. You might take trips to the movie theater, bowling alley, ice skating rink, spectate a local sports game, enjoy a pizza pool party with your peers or even take a boat tour of the Connecticut River!

What does a regular camp day look like?
Here is what a typical daily schedule would be for a student in the ELAC program:

8:00 Breakfast
8:30 Morning Meeting
8:45 Period 1
9:35 Period 2
10:20 Recess and Snack
10:40 Period 3
11:30 Period 4
12:20 Lunch
1:00 Afternoon Enrichment (swimming, art, outdoor education, field trips)
3:15 Sports hour
4:30 Study Hall
5:30 Dinner
6:00 Evening Activities and dorm time
8:30 Quiet time
9:00 Lights out

Who do I contact with questions?
Any questions, please reach out to Emma O'Neal Summer Program Coordinator.