



To: Emily Parks, Superintendent
Abigail Hanscom, Director of Student Services
Lemma Jn-Baptiste, Director of Business and Finance
From: Allison Borchers, Assistant Superintendent
Date: May 6, 2021
Re: Summer Programming in General Education

Overview

There is no doubt that the pandemic has had an impact on teaching and learning throughout the state and the nation. Here in the Westwood Public Schools, we are fortunate to have had strong community support, a creative and committed staff, and the resources needed to continue providing our students with a high quality education. The school closure last spring and modified school structures of this year were disruptive, however, and a major focus for the district next year will be on accelerating learning for all students. Some students, for whom the disruptions of the past fourteen months have had a disproportionate impact, will need more support in order to re-engage successfully in school next fall.

Elementary

The Westwood Public Schools will be running two general education summer support programs for students entering grades 1 - 6. These programs are designed to help students whose spring assessments reveal skill gaps.

An early grades literacy program will support students entering grades 1 - 3. These are critical years for future success in reading and writing, and the program will help ensure that our youngest students have a solid foundation in literacy. Our math program focuses on students entering grades 4 - 6. While students in the earlier grades have many opportunities to develop and practice early numeracy skills, the pace of the curriculum ramps up in these intermediate years. We want to make sure that all of our students have the tools to be successful with challenging, multi-step problems.

Early Literacy Program (students entering grades 1-3)

A four-week, in-person literacy program will support our youngest readers. The core of the program will center on developing foundational literacy skills, reading comprehension and writing. In addition, to encourage engagement and promote fun, students will participate in hands-on enrichment activities and each week of the program will be designed around a specific theme.

<i>Who</i>	Students entering grades 1-3
<i>What</i>	Foundational literacy skills (phonics, decoding & sight words) Reading strategies and comprehension Writing Workshop

	Enrichment activities
<i>Where</i>	Downey School
<i>When</i>	July 6 - 30, M - Th, 8:30 - 11:30 (15 days total) Sample Schedule: 8:30 - 8:45 Opening meeting & intro 8:45 - 9:45 Phonics and Reading 9:45 - 10:00 Break/Recess 10:00 - 10:45 Enrichment 10:45 - 11:30 Writing and closing meeting

Math Kickstart Program (students entering grades 4-6)

This two-week virtual program is designed to help students review and solidify specific skills/concepts that they will use in their math units in the early part of the fall. Instruction will focus on core numeracy concepts. Groups of students will meet virtually with teachers for about 90 minutes per day.

<i>Who</i>	Students entering grades 4-6
<i>What</i>	Critical math skills, by grade level: Grade 4: Multiplication focusing on number relationships Grade 5: Equal groups, multiplication & fractions Grade 6: Multiplication & division review, operating with fractions and decimals
<i>Where</i>	Virtual
<i>When</i>	August 16 - 27 (10 days) Weekday 90-minute sessions (e.g., 9:00 - 10:30) Sample schedule: 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome and Problem of the Day 9:15 - 9:45 Whole group mini-lesson and debrief 9:45 - 10:15 Workshop time 10:15 - 10:30 Wrap up and Ticket to Leave

Assessment data

Fall literacy assessments were used to identify students eligible for additional literacy support outside the classroom. The assessments will be given again this spring, after MCAS, and data will be used to determine which of our early grade students have lingering skill gaps. The district currently uses the following assessments in literacy:

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Skills Assessment (K only)

Developmental Reading Assessment (K-2)

Teachers' College Reading Record (3-5)

Teachers' College On-Demand Performance Writing Assessment (K-5)

In math, teachers and specialists used the *Investigations 3* unit-based assessments throughout the year to monitor student progress and growth. After MCAS, students will take an adapted year-end summative assessment. Data from these assessments will help the math team to identify students with disproportionate skill gaps.

Looking Ahead

While we hope that all eligible students will be able to attend these programs, we recognize that the timing and schedule might not work for some families. We are also in the process of developing a before-school program that will run on site at our elementary schools next fall.

Secondary Level

The summer academic programs for secondary students will focus on credit recovery and remediation, primarily in ELA and math. Students will be identified for the program based on assessment data and course grades. In addition, we are developing a program for a small number of students who may need additional support in transitioning to the high school. At both the middle school and high school, the scheduling work has focused in part on creating an intervention model for all students next year.