

BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 12, 2024

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Lisa Burnham, Summer Learning Coordinator

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed. D., Chief Academic Officers
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Summer Learning 2024 Information

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

Academic Achievement

Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement

Student Supports

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan

K-4 Literacy

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief details the Summer Learning 2024 course offerings, interventions, and programs.

DETAILS:

Summer Learning for All 2024 will offer several programs, enrichment, and intervention at all grade levels. Below are details of this year's program.

**Extended School Year (ESY) Program
Students with Disabilities (beyond the normal school)**

Students with disabilities receive specialized instruction and/or related services during the summer months. Consideration for ESY in an Individualized Education Plan team decision.

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Pre-Kindergarten:

Students will develop social-emotional, language, literacy, math and science skills for kindergarten readiness as they explore the topic “Our Five Senses.” Hands-on activities will keep students curious and engaged as they discover more about themselves and explore Our Five Senses through a variety of multi-sensory experiences. Science experiments, read-alouds, games, and walking field trips are just some of the fun activities our preschoolers will participate in as they prepare for kindergarten.

Elementary School

Current Grades First-Fourth Students:

Students will focus on STEM learning using the Camp Invention curriculum. Students will gain confidence and perseverance, build their STEM skills and improve their reading skills through collaborative, creative, problem-solving activities.

Alongside the **Camp Invention STEM** learning curriculum, students will have daily time to develop math and literacy skills throughout the summer. Students will learn math concepts throughout the summer with a focus on rich math discussions and representing their thinking and reasoning. Students will engage in fluency routines, problem-solving, and daily lessons in the Zearn Math Missions. The targeted Zearn Missions will cover key math concepts that will accelerate their learning. English Language support will be provided within the ACPS summer learning program.

To support literacy growth, teachers will immerse students in interactive read-alouds and hands-on phonics skills instruction with Really Great Reading’s summer curriculum. Summer libraries will engage students in reading and discussing high-interest texts with their peers.

Current Grades 5-8 Students:

Current students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will have a theme this year of Career Exploration Camp using hands-on, project-based **Engineering is Everywhere** modules. English Language support will be provided within the program.

Dual Language Summer Language Academy

Current Grades Kindergarten through Fourth

The Dual Language Summer Language Academy is an enrichment program that emphasizes the development of both program languages (Spanish and English) through the study of Spanish-speaking countries' histories, geographies, and environments. Students will engage in fluency routines, problem-solving, and daily lessons in the Zearn Math Missions for intervention.

Young Scholars Summer Program

Current Grades 5-8 Students

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Young Scholars students in upper elementary and middle school will engage in STEM and career-education using high-interest, hands-on, standards-aligned learning activities from the education using high-interest, hands-on, standards-aligned learning activities from the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) curriculum from the Museum of Science. Following the Engineering Design Process and using scientific inquiry, students make connections to the real world. EiE units guide students to activate and share prior knowledge as they build communication, perseverance, collaboration, and presentation skills. Finally, Grades 4-6, will also focus on algebraic reasoning, while grades 7-8 will incorporate career investigations.

The Young Scholars Model is designed to help identify students from historically underrepresented populations for gifted services. The model provides additional opportunities to nurture talent and build confidence so students can meet their potential. The goal is to prepare Young Scholars for challenging courses and success in the future.

Governor’s Health Sciences Summer Bridge

Current Grade 8 and 9

The program is designed for students who have been accepted into the Governor’s Health Sciences Pathway. This bridge program is meant to create a foundation that enables the students to be successful taking college-level courses. Students receive instruction related to college research, writing, and APA format. Guest speakers from each of the six program Paths share insight regarding health-related careers and hands-on activities or simulations.

Dual Language Summer Bridge

Current Grade 5 Students

The Dual Language Summer Bridge is a two-week enrichment program for current 5th grade students who will be enrolled in the Dual Language Program in 6th grade at George Washington Middle School or Francis C. Hammond Middle School. The Summer Bridge program is delivered completely in Spanish, with the goal of “bridging” students’ Spanish language and literacy skills over the summer, as they prepare to enter our middle school Dual Language Program.

Summer Music Camp

Current Grades 4-8 Students

This program is for current fourth-eighth grade students who participate in instrumental music during the school year. It will be offered July 8-18, 2024, Monday-Thursday. Students will meet each day at Alexandria City High School for level-appropriate instrumental music instruction. Camp will conclude with a final performance on Thursday, July 18.

Summer Theatre & Dance Camp

Current Grade 6-8 Students

This is a 3-week program for current sixth-eighth grade students (rising seventh-ninth) and is offered July 1-July 18, 2024. Students will have the opportunity to learn about stage-acting and movement, as well as some technical theater elements such as set design and build, lighting, sound, costumes, and make-up. Students will work collaboratively to rehearse, prepare, and

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perform on the George Washington Middle School stage.

High School Program

Current Grades 9-12 and Term Graduates

Credit recovery courses are offered to students, free of charge, who may have failed a course needed to meet graduation requirements during the school year. The following courses are offered in-person:

- English
- Social Studies
- Science
- Biology, Biology II, Earth Science
- Math
- Algebra 1, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra 2; and
- Health and Physical Education (PE) 9 & 10.

Health and PE 9 original credit courses will be offered to rising 8th grade students in-person.

Health and PE 10 will be taught using a blended approach. The Virginia Driver Education program requires 36 periods of classroom instruction. Due to this requirement a 6-week it is necessary to cover physical education, health, and family life education standards of learning that are part of HPE 10.

Online Learning for New Credit Courses

Current Grades 9-11 and Seniors Attempting Summer Graduation

The courses that are offered for original credit are self-paced and require 140 seat hours of instruction. These are the current courses

Please note that all original credit courses are subject to vendor availability and priority will be given to current and rising 12th grade students.

Advanced Placement Calculus Bootcamp

This preparation program A summer course that will build fundamental skills in preparation for an AP Calculus course through exposure to content and AP style questions needed for successful completion of an AP Calculus course and exam. The two major objectives are:

- Strengthening the core math skills needed to be successful in calculus such as factoring, graphing, and trigonometry.
- Exposing students to the first two chapters of AP Calculus to help make a smooth transition for students into such a rigorous course.

This will allow students to strengthen core skills needed for AP Calculus, while also exploring the first two chapters of calculus.

This course offering is pending the availability of staffing.

Advanced Placement Bootcamp

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Students registered in their first advanced placement course(s) in the 2024-25 school year.

The boot camp coursework helps students focus on the skills necessary to successfully complete a year in any Advanced Placement course. This goal is achieved through experiences designed to encourage teamwork, communication, organization, critical reading and writing as well as problem-solving.

This course offering is also pending the availability of staffing.

School counselors register students for all courses at the high school Summer Learning Program.

BACKGROUND:

As did Summer Learning for All 2023, Summer Learning 2024 will continue to offer opportunities to engage in social/emotional skill builder lessons, enriching, project-based learning experiences, and investigations at the pre-kindergarten to eighth grade levels. Through further discussion, the Summer Learning Planning Team determined that intervention in literacy and math would also be a component of this year's instructional programming. Students with disabilities will receive High school students will still receive credit recovery and original credit options.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Summer Learning 2024 instructional programming.

IMPACT:

The Summer Learning program is designed to accelerate learning for all students through enrichment and intervention. This Board brief will help to increase the knowledge of the School Board and Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) families on what instructional programs that are offered to ACPS students during the summer months.

REFERENCES:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

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