

We are pleased to share a comprehensive recap of the Hamilton Summerhawks 2023 Expanded Learning Program, which concluded on August 4th after a successful 5-week session. We aim to highlight the remarkable achievements of the program, particularly emphasizing our commitment to academic growth, student engagement, and personal development.

This year's Summerhawks program surpassed all previous iterations, showcasing significant enhancements and an extraordinary level of student engagement, effort, and motivation. As the program progressed, it became evident that the students were not just participants but true scholars. This was not as evident in past programs.

While acknowledging the potential risk of underscoring the breadth of the Summerhawks Program, encompassing not only Math and English Language Arts but also including STEM exploration, collaborative skill development, nurturing a growth mindset, community engagement, financial literacy, resume composition, adept communication, robotics, coding, chess, art, athletics, and personal development, we are so proud of the remarkable academic strides achieved by our Summerhawks scholars. **Spanning all grade levels (rising 2-8), students have attained noteworthy accomplishments – progressing an entire grade level in Math and advancing a third of a grade level in ELA, as evidenced by IXL assessments.** This accomplishment serves as a true testament to the commitment and diligence demonstrated by our 140 Summerhawks Scholars. (For a comprehensive data overview, refer below.)

A cornerstone of the Summerhawks philosophy is to ingrain the importance of academics in the lives of our students. To this end, we strategically place math and humanities at the forefront of our daily schedule while equipping students with the tools they need to succeed. In addition, every student spent over 30 hours learning and practicing math skills over the 24 days of Summerhawks. The greatest tool is a belief in a growth mindset, where intelligence is not intrinsic but earned through persistent effort. This belief is reinforced by tying daily effort to tangible achievement. Each scholar, class, and the community as a whole set goals for IXL platform usage, resulting in an astounding collective accomplishment of over 200,000 Math and ELA questions answered. The undeniable correlation between effort and achievement was evident throughout.

Integral to the success of Summerhawks is the careful selection and training of inspiring lead teachers (10) and specialists in art, robotics and coding, athletics, chess. An intensive week-long training session instilled a culture of high expectations, highlighted the significance of education and fostered a shared vocabulary rooted in growth (the power of “yet”). This cohesive and passionate team, along with 40 volunteers played a pivotal role in engaging students and redirecting their efforts towards achievement. In addition, we engaged the parents by having a mandatory parent meeting and enlisting their help in placing academics at the forefront during the summer and continuing this throughout the school year.

As part of our commitment to transparency and continued improvement, we request teaching leaders to generate a student report for each participant, aiding parents, and future teachers in understanding individual learning strengths and areas for growth.

Additionally, we encourage each student to complete a program-end survey, providing valuable insights for refining the Summerhawks experience. Notably, the survey revealed that 96% of students expressed a desire to return, and 42% are enthusiastic about participating in the Chess Nationals in Atlanta in 2024. (The survey is attached as a PDF to this email.)

Some of the unique enhancements this year included:

- Wide-ranging integration of the IXL Math and ELA platform across all grades, with diagnostic assessments conducted prior to the school year's end.
- Inclusion of rising 2nd graders, recognizing the benefits of early education engagement.
- Customization of the Rise Interventional Math and Reading curriculum for 2nd graders.
- Expansion of the Robotics curriculum, introducing Coding via the Scratch platform.
- The "Hamilton Helps" program, empowering the students to contribute positively to the community.
- Extended program hours, featuring morning sessions (7:00 to 8:45) with enrichment activities and afternoon sessions (3:00 to 4:00) offering Art, Athletics, RCM (robotics, coding, and makers lab), and Chess.
- New STEM experiences that emphasized teamwork, highlighted by the "Build a City" and "Mega Big Roller" roller coaster challenges.

SUMMERHAWKS 2023 MATH DATA - IXL PROGRAM					
		Points			End Program
	Baseline	Above/Below	8/4/2023	5 week	Above/Below
	Diagnostic	Grade Level	End Diagnostic	Improvement	Grade level
2nd Grade (200 = Grade level)	144.67	-55.33	245.33	100.66	45.33
3rd Grade (300 = Grade level)	198.75	-101.25	296.47	97.72	-3.53
4th Grade (400 = Grade level)	366.92	-33.08	425.77	58.85	25.77
5th Grade (500 = Grade level)	373.85	-126.15	463.85	90.00	-36.15

6th Grade (600 = Grade level)	379.05	-220.95	515.71	136.66	-84.29
7th Grade (700 = Grade level)	474.38	-225.62	573.75	99.37	-126.25
8th Grade (800 = Grade level)	476.43	-323.57	610.00	133.57	-190.00
9th Grade (900 = Grade level)	836.67	-63.33	950.00	113.33	50.00
Averages for Program		-143.66		103.77	-39.89

SUMMERHAWKS 2023 ELA DATA - IXL PROGRAM						
	Baseline ELA	Baseline Reading	Ending ELA	Ending Reading	ELA Imp.	Reading Imp.
3rd Grade	174.55	180.00	221.54	206.92	46.99	26.92
4th Grade	266.85	283.10	291.38	304.83	24.53	21.73
5th Grade	300.00	310.38	350.00	353.85	50.00	43.47
6th Grade	324.76	332.38	361.90	374.29	37.14	41.91
7th Grade	488.00	505.33	522.67	520.00	32.00	14.67
8th Grade	620.00	619.29	652.86	640.71	20.71	21.42
Average Improvement					35.23	28.35

Additional Data from the IXL platform on Math:

Beginning of SummerHawks IXL Math Diagnostic (from IXL site) 36 students at or above grade level

