



September 15, 2023

Dear Rise Community,

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. Throughout this letter, 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.

At the risk of diminishing the robust depth of the Summerhawks Program which includes STEM exploration, teamwork building, fostering a growth mindset, connecting with the community, financial literacy, resume writing, effective communication, robotics, coding, chess, art, athletics, and personal development, we are just as proud of the outstanding academic progress of our Summerhawks scholars. Across all grade levels (rising 2-8), students achieved remarkable results – advancing an entire grade level in Math and a third of a grade level in ELA as measured by IXL assessments. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our 140 Summerhawks Scholars. (See below for overview of data)

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. 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.

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 98% of students expressed a desire to return, and 45% are enthusiastic about participating in the Chess Nationals in Atlanta in 2024.

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 enriching activities and afternoon sessions (3:00 to 4:00) offering options like 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.

We appreciate the support for Summerhawks both financially and with respect to the facility. Having ample room to accommodate small class sizes and rich and varied programming helps us make a profound impact within a short timeframe. Financial support allows for Rise Scholars to make this kind of impact at Hamilton throughout the full year and sends a strong message to our broad donor community that the School and the District find value in what we do. Thank you!

Michele Huff and Jay Ferguson
RISE Scholars, Inc

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	144.67	-55.33	245.33	100.66	45.33
3rd Grade	198.75	-101.25	296.47	97.72	-3.53
4th Grade	366.92	-33.08	425.77	58.85	25.77
5th Grade	373.85	-126.15	463.85	90.00	-36.15
6th Grade	379.05	-220.95	515.71	136.66	-84.29
7th Grade	474.38	-225.62	573.75	99.37	-126.25
8th Grade	476.43	-323.57	610.00	133.57	-190.00
9th Grade	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