NEWS RELEASE
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SPS Summer Learning Program Open to All Students
Month-Long Session Begins July 6

SEATTLE – The summer school program offered annually by Seattle Public Schools returns once more – this time with a new name and a change to the program.

The one-month session, formerly called “Summer Staircase,” is now “The Summer of Learning.” It’s a broader description that reflects a broader program change: now, any SPS student can participate. Previously, attendance was limited to those students who had been recommended by educators.

Another change from past summer programs is this year’s offering will be conducted through remote learning, which is a continuation of the remote learning that was triggered in mid-March when all school buildings were closed because of coronavirus concerns.

The program expansion to all students adds additional educational opportunities responding to the challenges brought about by the mid-March coronavirus-related closure of all school buildings.

“While this is not the semester or summer we had planned for last fall, I am proud of the ways we have innovated and adapted to the needs of our students,” said SPS Superintendent Denise Juneau. “Because our summer program will be remote, we felt it was vital that all students have learning opportunities over the summer to provide needed consistency and predictability as we transition into a new school year and as we continue to evaluate the way we provide instruction.”

Overview

- The Summer of Learning
- Course dates: July 6 to August 7
• Registration begins Tuesday, May 26, 2020
• Open to all SPS students, K-12
• K-8 program: 25 on-demand grade level lessons; English Language Arts, Math
• K-5 program also includes social-emotional wellness lessons
• 9-12 program: course options from Apex Learning. Extended learning does not earn credit toward graduation but does aid in student preparation. Additional details on SPS website.

Credit Recovery for High Schoolers

Students currently in grades 9-12 who need credit recovery for a course they previously did not pass, or received an “Incomplete” during the school building closures, will have the opportunity to recover up to 1.0 credits (two 0.5 credit courses) from the available summer courses. Students will have access to the online learning system, Apex Learning, and will be assigned a teacher who will provide live instruction and one-on-one sessions.

Bridge Courses

During The Summer of Learning, SPS is also providing a bridge course for fifth grade students entering middle school next school year and for eighth grade students entering high school next school year. These bridge courses will focus on developing the skills and mindset necessary for a successful transition.

Anyone interested can get more information, including registration forms beginning May 26, on the SPS website at https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/summer_learning

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