

Continuing Education Summer Programs Report 2018

Roszena Haskins, Director of Continuing Education and Diversity Advancement

West Hartford Inter-district Summer High School

The inter-district summer high school program was held at Conard High School and enrolled 645 students this past summer. Eighty-two percent of the summer high school students were from Conard and Hall. Eighteen percent of the students enrolled were from 28 surrounding towns. This year, the program offered 15 credit-bearing courses and 7 non-credit courses taught by a certified faculty of teachers from West Hartford and surrounding towns that participate in the West Hartford Inter-District Collaborative. About 83% of enrolled students took courses to “get ahead” in their scheduled program. About 11% of enrolled students took courses for credit recovery, and 6% enrolled in non-credit courses such as Study Skills/Organizing for High School, Introduction to Algebra, SAT Prep and ESOL classes. Introduction to Algebra, *Summer Jazz Jam* and *Maker It So MakerSpace* were opened to middle school students. This year, the summer high school piloted Edgenuity, a blended learning platform, in six English and science courses. Edgenuity offers flexible online learning as an extension to live classroom instruction and allows for teachers to guide and closely monitor extended learning that takes place online.

This year, the summer high school program shared space at Conard High School with the Extended School Year (ESY) high school program for students with special needs. This arrangement provided opportunities for students from both programs and of all abilities to interact and build relationships while learning and growing together. The *Maker it So MakerSpace* class was piloted last year and received grant funding from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools to continue this year. The course mimicked the maker movement, known to past generations as “DIY” (do-it-yourself). It encouraged collaboration, invention, and radical participation with a single goal: to create new things. Students operated a t-shirt business and created custom t-shirts. They constructed duct tape projects; built and raced rubber band-powered cars and airplanes. This year the course was enhanced by the inclusion of the students in the ESY program. The aim of this inclusion model was to increase the social and collaborative skills of all participating students, in addition to promoting an interest in the arts, business, and engineering.

The Intercambio exchange program was also held at Conard this past summer. Twenty-six Conard and Hall students and their families hosted 26 Intercambio program students from Spain. The Intercambio educational experience is serves to connect people. Hundreds of generous families have opened their homes to visitors over the years. The educational exchange experience this past summer included classroom studies and field trips to Boston and New York City. Students in the program interacted with their host peers as well as many other students who attended the summer high school from West Hartford and 28 surrounding districts. Hosting and traveling opportunities offer potentially life-changing experiences. It is not uncommon for participants to continue visiting each other for years after the initial exchange and to stay in touch for life.

This was the second year of *Summer Jazz Jam* and *Maker it So*. *Summer Jazz Jam* was a successful The two-week jazz ensemble program served 43 students entering grades 7, 8 and 9 and performing on traditional big band instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute, trombone, trumpet, bass, piano, guitar,

**Agenda Item:
VI.A.1.f.**

drum set). The program concluded with a spectacular performance on the concert stage at Elizabeth Park.

Summer Pre-Grade One Program

Programs were available for children ages 3 to 6 in school readiness classes held at Whiting Lane School. There were 87 students who participated in these programs; 72 of whom were students with special education needs.

Continuing Education – Adult Enrichment

In the LifeLearn enrichment program, 85 courses and 40 bus trips were offered. Approximately 590 registrants took advantage of the courses housed at Conard High School, Sedgwick Middle School and Town Hall in the day and evenings and took trips to areas and events of interest.

Adult Education – High School Diploma Program and Citizenship Class

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) and Citizenship classes continued to meet during the summer. The NEDP advisors continued instruction with about 24 adult learners seeking to complete their course of study over the summer. The West Hartford NEDP is one of only a few programs that runs throughout the summer. West Hartford Adult Education (WHAE) was selected to participate in a pilot for the NEDP Writing Prompt. Adult Basic Education (ABE) tutoring was provided for 4 students to prepare for NEDP. There were 10 students enrolled in the Citizenship class during the summer.

West Hartford Adult Education is one of a small number of providers that offers free childcare for adult learners with young children. WHAE was invited to participate in a study led by the Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education to examine how adult education providers can construct programs designed to increase options for parents whose child care shortfall is a barrier to taking advantage of adult education programs.

The graduation ceremony for students finishing the NEDP this fall and during the past year will be held on Thursday, November 8th in the Town Hall Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.