SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

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Youth have many options for summer

Editor's note: *Jada Morgan, a Poughkeepsie High School junior interning with the district Public Information Officer as part of her involvement in the Career Action Center reported and wrote this article.*

Creating opportunities for children is a key component of summer programs offered through various organizations throughout the City of Poughkeepsie. This is true for the Poughkeepsie City School District, which, through its offerings and those offered by partners, wants to show the community how it is a champion for children.

Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet's study found that students spend 80 percent of their time outside of school and only 20 percent in school.

Natasha Brown, executive director of community schools for the district, said "The district wanted to expand the amount of time students were engaged in active learning during the summer."

City of Poughkeepsie Youth Director Karen Williams said the main goal of the city programs are to keep students off the streets and engaged in productive activities. "The hope is to decrease delinquency," Williams said.

Executive Director of Community Schools Natasha Brown with students at Camp Nooteeming in summer 2022.

To that end, the school district, city and various community organizations are offering and promoting numerous options for youth this summer. Below are some of the programs being offered. Please check with your favorite organization to see if they are offering other programs.

Poughkeepsie City School District

Capital improvement project and other construction work is impacting the district's ability to host summer programs in schools. So, the district is providing scholastic summer enrichment packets for all students grades K-5 that will provide reading and math books and activities.

In addition, the following summer programs are being offered:

- **Extraordinary Youth Summer Camp** at Poughkeepsie Middle School is a free Community Schools collaboration with Community Matters 2, Charlia Frank and Growing Stemz. Activities include environmental exploration, citizen's science, reading comprehension, social-emotional learning, swimming, 3D printing, STEAM, storytelling, music, dance drones & coding, health & fitness, arts & crafts, soccer and field trips. It is open to students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Limited to 140 students, the camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. beginning July 5 and ending Aug. 16. Breakfast and lunch is served. As of 6/14/23 there is a waiting list, please call the Parent Empowerment Center at 845-451-4900 ext. 1425 to be added to it.
- **Camp Nooteeming** offers a variety of activities for students and Dutchess County granted full scholarships and transportation for 150 PCSD students. Camp runs July 6-Aug. 3 from 9 a.m.-1p.m. Monday through Thursday. Priority was given to Summer Lights and Extraordinary Youth Summer Camp participants and a waiting list has been established. Call the Parent Empowerment Center at 845-451-4900 ext. 1425 to be added to it. You may also contact Dutchess County Youth Services about other possible attendance opportunities at 845-486-3288.
- **Credit recovery** at Poughkeepsie High School provides an opportunity for students who want to make up work or classes they are missing. Registration information will be available soon.

City of Poughkeepsie programs

- **City of Poughkeepsie Youth Football League** wants to get students ages 7-14 back into the park and involved in something positive through flag football program. It runs from the third week of August through November. The program is free. Call 845-554-7304 or email charter1966@hotmail.com
- **City of Poughkeepsie Basketball** is an educationally sound program centered around young, high school and sometimes middle school, men and gives them the opportunity to play collegiate basketball. It runs from April up until pre-season(before school starts). The program is free. Call 646-263-9398 or email coach100@yahoo.com.
- **Swimming** will be offered at Spratt Park Pool for extended hours beginning June 30 and once again the city has waived fees. Plus, through an arrangement with PCSD, the city will offer swimming lessons at Poughkeepsie Middle School pool from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday through mid-August. Sign-up sheets will be available at PMS and Spratt Park pools. Additionally, the PMS pool will be available for adult swimming from 1-2 p.m. M-F.

Community partners

Many of these programs received funding from the City of Poughkeepsie through its Youth Opportunity Grants. Applications are reviewed by a board and then a decision is made on which programs receive funding.

Summer 2022 football camp.

- **The Art Effect** offers summer art camps for children ages 5-10 that give children a chance to create fine art, digital media and performing art while building self-confidence, creative thinking and developing art making techniques with professional artists and experienced teachers. Scholarships are available for all camps. The School's Out Camp takes place M-F, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at The Art Effect's Pershing Studios, 45 Pershing Ave., June 26-30. $535 non-members, $508 members. There is also a series of week-long Dutchess Arts Camps at Poughkeepsie Day School, M-F from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. starting the week of July 10 and ending Aug. 4. See the full list of camps and fees.
- **Celebrating the African Spirit** Youth "Hidden Histories" Summer Program is a three-week program that teaches Poughkeepsie High School students about Poughkeepsie's history of enslaved Africans and their descendants. Participants create posters and a celebration reception is held at the end. M-F, June 26-July 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Application deadline is June 6. Call 845-471-0264 or 914-310-8845. Email aquadragon40@verizon.net or kalimahkarim@gmail.com.
- **Esperanza Dutchess County Hispanic Organization** offers "Unity and Hope Summer Youth Recreational Program" offers karate demos, arts and crafts, storytelling, puppet shows and storytelling through a variety of partners. The free program also provides lunch. It is open to students ages 4-17 and will be held at Bartlett Park, Hooker Avenue. It runs M-F from Aug. 7-25. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call for registration, 845-471-0895 or 845-392-4388 or email esme.esperanzaorg@gmail.com.
- **Finish Strong Wellness Center** incorporates homework assistance and emotional support to youths as young as 5 up to young adults age 24. The program is set to run from July 5 to August 10 and is free of cost. Call 845-625-8817 or email dwoodbine@finishstrongpk.org.
- **The LoveQuest Foundation**, in collaboration with Saving Our Tomorrow, SOLE Purpose, New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice and Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Stewart 105 from Newburgh is offering a six-week program from July 5-Aug. 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. It offers a range of activities that culminates in the recording of a music video PSA. For information and registration, visit https://forms.gle/NyuuPmdt7joSqKQ4A, email info@thelovequestfoundation.org or call 845-522-6866.
    - LoveQuest also offers summer workshops for youth ages 14-18 who are interested in creative writing, journaling and music production. For information on those programs, email info@thelovequestfoundation.org or call 845-522-6866.

- **Roy Community Foundation Football Camp for Youth** will teach the fundamentals of football, provide a respectful learning space, build teamwork and leadership skills from July 5 through Aug. 11, 8 a.m. to noon, M-F. Snacks provided. Call 845-546-8475 or email roydw354@gmail.com to register or for information.
- **The Salvation Army** offers an overnight camp at Star Lake. The camp, in Bloomingdale, New Jersey, offers campers activities including archery, boating, hiking, arts and crafts, a ropes course and more. Weekly sessions begin July 3 with the last session ending Aug. 4. Roundtrip transportation from Poughkeepsie is provided. Parents must fill out the application at www.starlake.camp/parents and submit it, then call 845-471-1210 to speak with the local representative. Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis.
- **Vassar Education Collaboration** is set to run two programs, Vassar After School Tutoring (VAST) and Exploring College (EC). VAST is available to middle school students and EC is for rising 11th and 12th grade students. The VAST Summer program is set to run from July 11-27 with meetings three times per week and EC is every day during the weeks of July 10 and July 17. Both programs are free.
- **The Environmental Cooperative-Vassar College** hopes for participants to have a positive experience outside in nature and expose them to the local nature. It is open for visits starting June 26- August 14 and the program is free of cost. Call 845-437-7422 or email jerubbo@vassar.edu.
- **Yusuf House of the Hudson Valley** is offering a summer chess program for children ages 11-13 on Wednesdays from 5-6:45 p.m. starting July 12 and ending Aug. 23 at Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. T-shirts, chess board and refreshments are included. Space is limited and applications will be available at Poughkeepsie Middle School. Email yusufhousehv1@gmail.com.

"The goal for the city is to make sure the programs are offering the services they stated in their grant application and that the youth are receiving that service," Williams said.

For information on programs offered during the summer and throughout the year by Youth Opportunity Grant recipients, visit the city's Youth Services website.

Tonight: District's first all-elementary musical

Narrators (L-R) Heaven Murphy and Amelia King, Genie (Harriet Luongo), narrator Janiyah Vinson, Aladdin (Noah Adamson), Jr Djinn (Fatou Mane) Avis-Magic Carpet (Armani Morales) and Jr Djinn (Sady Umanzor) on stage during rehearsal June 9, 2023.

For the first time, fourth and fifth graders from all four district elementary schools are coming together tonight and tomorrow to perform a musical open to the community.

The kids version of "Aladdin," at Krieger Elementary School, 6 p.m., features a cast and crew of about 30 students under the direction of Krieger teacher Nicole Schmitt. The show is about 45 minutes in length.

Students were selected for roles based on a virtual audition for which they submitted a recording of themselves, Schmitt said. The main characters are: Aladdin, played by Noah Adamson and Emmanuel Orrego (each has a night); Genie, Harriet Luongo; Jasmine, Sarai Harrell and Jafar, Londyn Cummings.

Since mid-March, the cast and crew have met and rehearsed three days a week for two hours each day.

"We had a conversation and Krieger has done shows but the other schools hadn't done any and we wanted to give the other schools an opportunity to participate," Schmitt said.

The district funded the costs associated with the performance, including the purchase of a spotlight to help highlight the performers.

We hope you'll join us to support student actors from Clinton, Krieger, Morse and Warring this week. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.