



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent
District 97 Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Amy Warke, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer
Dr. Helen Wei, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

RE: Summer Launch Update

DATE: June 13, 2017

Type of Report: Informational

Purpose of the Report: The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Education with an update on Summer Launch.

Introduction

The District 97 vision is to **create a positive learning environment for all District 97 students that is equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child**. The Summer Launch program will address the following universal goals:

- To ensure every student is challenged and engaged
- All students have access to programs and supports to prepare them for success in high school
- We support every student to be a critical thinker, ready to contribute to their community
- Each student is known for who they are and their unique needs are met

In December 2016, we presented before the Board of Education our recommendations for improving our academic support summer program, aligned to our district's vision. In reimagining our summer programming, our K-2 Summer Launch/Reading and Writing Workshop and 3-8 Summer Launch BASE Camp will address these recommendations in the following ways:

- **Recommendation:** Provide extended learning opportunities that provide students with a full day of engagement.
 - **K-2:** We partnered with the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) to provide wrap-around opportunities after our half-day K-2 Summer Launch program at Lincoln School. Families had the option of signing their children up for fee-based Day Camp and Extended Camp for coverage until 3:00 or 6:00 pm, respectively. Scholarships based on need were available to families. Of the 67 Summer Launch K-2 students, 6 students are enrolled in the Day/Extended Camp (11:30 am-6:00 pm), 12 students are enrolled in the Day Camp (11:30 am-3:00 pm), and 1 is enrolled in the Extended Camp (3:00-6:00 pm).
 - **3-8:** BASE Camp is a full day of camp. 3rd-5th grade families could sign up for fee-based Early Drop-off (8:00-9:00 am) or Extended Care (3:00-6:00 pm). Scholarships based on need were available to families. Of the 63 Summer Launch 3rd-5th graders, 19 students are enrolled in early drop-off, of which 11 are covered by OPEF's scholarship fund. Twenty-four students are enrolled in extended care, of which 13 are covered by OPEF's scholarship fund.
- **Recommendation:** Create learning opportunities for students to explore social/emotional, academic, physical, and artistic expression.
 - **K-2:** Reading and Writing Workshop gives students voice and choice, and the opportunity to express themselves. Students also become a part of a community of

readers and writers, and frequently work with partners and small groups.

- **3-8:** BASE Camp offers a variety of workshops that give students the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of ways. Camps include Comic Creator, Wandering Artists, Spoken Word, LEGO Engineering, Building a Business, Film Shorts, Urban Biker, Bionics Builder, Oak Park GO!, Run, Play, Eat, and many more.
- **Recommendation:** Provide enrichment opportunities to encourage positive behaviors and increase cognitive engagement.
 - **K-8:** Both the Reading and Writing Workshop and BASE Camp give students the opportunities for increased engagement, enrichment, expression.

Summer Launch Locations

Summer Launch will be located at three schools this summer, June 19 to July 14:

- **Kindergarten & 1st/2nd Grade Summer Launch/ Reading and Writing Workshop** - Lincoln School - 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **3rd-5th Grade Summer Launch BASE Camp** - Longfellow School - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **6th-8th Grade Summer Launch BASE Camp** - Brooks Middle School - 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Current Summer Launch Enrollment

We extended invitations to students who were identified as MTSS Tier 3 and were receiving Tier 3 interventions, following winter testing. We invited a total of 372 students and currently have a total of 176 students enrolled in Summer Launch, in incoming grades 1-8. The table below provides details on our current student enrollment for each Summer Launch program:

| | Kindergarten | 1st/2nd Grade Summer Launch | 1st/2nd Reading and Writing Workshop (paid program) | 3rd-5th Grade Summer Launch BASE Camp | 6th-8th Grade Summer Launch BASE Camp |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Current Enrollment - Summer Launch 2017 | TBD | 64 | 3 | 63 | 49 |
| Enrollment Goal - Summer Launch 2017 | 10 | 70 | 14 | 65 | 50 |
| Enrollment - Prep for Success 2016 | 11 | 74 | N/A | 62 | 35 |

Originally, we had planned for a 1st/2nd Grade Summer Launch program at Lincoln School, because this was a pilot year. However, based on recent conversations with the Collaboration for Early Childhood, following Kindergarten Readiness Testing (KRT), we have decided to open an additional incoming Kindergarten classroom. Students are currently in the process of being invited to and registered for the program.

We had only three students sign up for our paid program, the 1st/2nd Grade Reading and Writing Workshop. This was due to our lack of timeliness in communicating the program to families. Next year, we would like to advertise this option at the same time that we send our invitations to students for Summer Launch. We were late in initiating the process for the paid program, due to our focus on recruiting and enrolling Summer Launch students.

Summer Launch Staff

K-2 Summer Launch/ Reading and Writing Workshop Staff

We hired one coordinator and seven teachers for the K-2 Summer Launch/Reading and Writing Workshop. An open application was sent to all K-5 teachers. We considered the following factors in our hiring process:

- application questions/responses
- grade currently teaching
- past experience with *Writing Units of Study* and *Reading Units of Study*
- principal recommendations and feedback

The following is a list of our selected staff for the K-2 program:

- **Coordinator:** Jessica Bretl, Beye, Kindergarten Teacher
- **Teachers:**
 - Lee Brummell, Hatch, First Grade Teacher
 - Nicole Decancq, Lincoln, Kindergarten Teacher
 - Sean Degman, Irving, Instructional Coach
 - Faith Harris, Holmes, First Grade Teacher
 - Marion Ivey, Longfellow, Kindergarten Teacher
 - Jennifer Logan, Beye, Instructional Coach
 - Roxane Pasquinelli, Longfellow, Third Grade Teacher

3-8 Summer Launch BASE Camp Staff

Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF) hired 52 teachers, of which 30 are District 97 teachers, and over half are returning BASE Camp teachers. They also hired six D97 Teacher Assistants, two social workers, one building manager, and one Title I Tutor to help with Extended Camp. Other teachers and staff include OPEF-affiliated artists, D200 teachers, and local artists and experts. During the hiring process, OPEF considered principal and current BASE Camp teacher recommendations

Summer Launch Teacher and Staff Training

K-2 Summer Launch Reading and Writing Workshop Training

Our K-2 coordinator and teachers participated in a full day of training at the end of May with Rachel Dahl, one of our external WUOS/RUOS coaches, to create a robust professional learning community. The training included reviewing assessments to guide instruction, reading workshop, and our summer curriculum. Our Summer Launch curriculum includes one reading unit and one writing unit that were specially designed for our program by Rachel Dahl, to guide and pace instruction and tailored to our Summer Launch students' needs. In addition, we discussed our partnership with the Oak Park Public Library, who will be providing books and librarian visits to our classrooms during the four weeks.

On June 8, teachers met to prepare and plan together for our June 19th start, with the support of Coordinator Jessica Bretl and Coach Rachel Dahl:



3-8 Summer Launch BASE Camp Training

OPEF will provide six hours of training for teachers and youth counselors (high school and college students, 43 percent of whom identify as students of color) next week. The training will combine BASE Camp logistics with cultural competence and camp behavior management. Gina Harris, a former educator who is on the National Education Association's (NEA) Board of Directors for Illinois

and chairs NEA's Human and Civil Rights committee, is facilitating a session on how to create calm and productive learning environments. Nichelle Stigger, a math teacher who works to build relationships between Oak Park and Austin, will also lead a discussion on anti-bias practices. Lindsay Bruce, BASE Camp Director, and Angie Hawkins, BASE Camp Assistant Director, will review BASE Camp expectations and logistics for teachers and youth counselors.

Summer Launch Program Evaluation

We will collect data over the course of the summer to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs, as well as inform our decision-making process around programmatic changes and improvements. Below are the following data we plan to collect for each program:

K-2 Grade Summer Launch Reading and Writing Workshop

- On-Demand Narrative Writing Diagnostic Assessment Scores (writing rubrics) - pre and post
- High-frequency Word Assessment - pre and post
- Guided Reading Levels (Running Records Assessment) - pre and post
- Observational data on student literacy behaviors
- Student survey
- Parent survey
- Program attendance

3-8 Summer Launch BASE Camp

- BASE Camp Student Check-in (student survey):
 - I feel like I belong
 - I have fun learning
 - The campers help each other
 - My teachers treat me with respect
 - My teachers listens to my ideas
 - I learned a lot from the projects I did
- BASE Camp Student Assessment - teacher observation form
- Program attendance
- Classroom observations using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- Parent survey

Summer Learning Lab - Professional Learning for Teachers

Open to all K-5 teachers, the Summer Learning Lab is a voluntary professional learning opportunity for teachers to observe *Reading Units of Study* and *Writing Units of Study* in action, in our 1st/2nd Grade Summer Launch/Reading and Writing Workshop classrooms. Participants will use an observation protocol to observe a classroom, debrief, and set goals for their own practice.

We have offered a total of five dates for which teachers may sign up, 8:15-11:15 am. Three dates will provide a K-2 focus, in which the debrief will align to K-2 reading and writing workshop planning, and two dates are available for a K-5 focus, in which the debrief will align to K-5 reading and writing workshop planning. Summer Learning Lab observation sessions will be facilitated by our external RUOS/WUOS coach, Clare Donovan-Scane.

Conclusion

Summer Launch begins on June 19th, and we are currently making final preparations for the program.