



SUCCEED2GETHER
BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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Programs Full of Wonderful Moments

As we begin another busy school year, we want to give our families and supporters an overview of S2G's extraordinary summer program. For all of us, it was full of remarkable moments:

- By the 2nd day of camp, a 4th grade child who arrived at the program with severe separation anxiety was happily laughing and playing with the other kids.
- MATH was several kids' FAVORITE summer activity.
- We watched as normally shy children blossomed into extroverts during Terrance Brooks' acting class.
- Our 1st and 2nd graders looked utterly thrilled as they climbed into fire trucks wearing fire hats.
- When one of our high school volunteers, Carlos Conrad, had to say good-bye early, we found ourselves with a room full of crying children!
- Retired volunteers and young kids became best buddies playing card games and learning to knit.



We were extremely fortunate to have Michael Daniels, a retired Newark principal, volunteer for our program. Mr. Daniels, who is also a counselor, worked with the children who needed extra help and also mentored the staff. With more than 40 years of experience as a teacher and principal, his help was invaluable and helped make the summer program run smoothly.

As memories of the summer program fade and we head into November, S2G's tutoring program is scrambling to keep up with demand. The popularity of the after-school tutoring program continues to increase again this year; we are already facing a

tutor shortage. Our fall workshops (such as violin, writing, nutrition, and chess) started up in October. Most classes are completely full. Our Book Buddy program, where middle and high school students read to younger children, seems to be the most popular activity in the library. And we are excited about a new program that will be starting soon: S2G's Teen Café, which will be held in the 1st floor café of the Montclair Public Library.

None of these programs would be possible without our loyal Succeed2gether families and generous contributors. Thank you all for your support.

Marcia Marley,
President

Jackie Mroz,
Director of Programs

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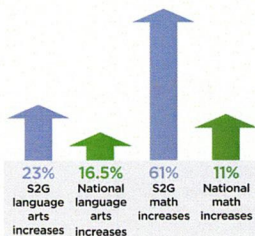
Reversing the Summer Slide

The 2017 S2G summer enrichment program was a terrific success attracting students from all over Essex County -- including Montclair, West Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield and Newark! We enrolled over 80 students (our limit), from grades 1st to 10th, for a full day of academic classes and enrichment activities.

The primary goal of the summer camp's academic activities is to prevent students from losing the gains obtained during the school year, a phenomenon known as the "summer slide." Because of the small class sizes and individual attention, our students have been able to achieve substantial academic improvement.

To measure success, we administered a nationally recognized standardized test at the beginning of camp. This test provided benchmarks for each grade which we used to assess where students were academically compared to national norms. This comparison enabled teachers to identify and differentiate

instruction for students in need of additional attention from those who were more advanced and welcomed above grade level work. At the end of the summer program we assessed the students once more using the same benchmarks and recorded significant improvements across all grade levels!



The most exciting portion of the day often oc-

curred after lunch, when students were provided with a myriad of enrichment activities to choose from. These included: coding and game design, robotics, fitness, bridge, chess, voice, acting, science, mask design, Zumba, PE and more. Students engaged in these activities in weekly rotations, al-

lowing them to partake in many new experiences that expanded their horizons.

Our summer community of educators and learners included a number of volunteers as well as paid staff that ranged from ages 16 to 70! They included Montclair high school students, retirees, college students, as well as certified master teachers that presided over each classroom. This collective of diverse individuals created a dynamic social, cultural and intellectual interaction in which everyone involved contributed to the program's success.

Our success would not be possible without the combined efforts of all those involved and all those who contribute to the program. Thank you for all the support in helping us at Succeed2gether.

Kevin Lasenberry
Summer Enrichment Program Director

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SAVE THE DATE!

MONTCLAIR LITERARY FESTIVAL: MARCH 16 - 18, 2018

Coming Back to S2G

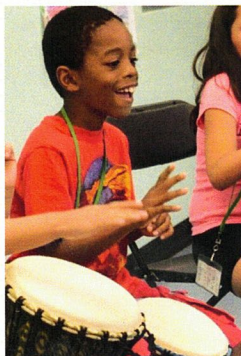
I am currently a junior at the



State University of New York at Oswego with a major in Broadcasting/Mass Communication. I have had the pleasure of participating in the Succeed2gether program since middle school, when I was being tutored. I really enjoyed working with S2G's tutors and appreciated that they dedicated their valuable time to help me become a successful student in the Montclair School system. I also participated in the Summer Enrichment Program when I was transitioning from middle school to high school. Both the after-school tutoring and summer enrichment programs were invaluable and helped me grow academically and mentally and also opened up new opportunities.

Once I was in high school, I volunteered as an assistant for the summer program and was honored to receive a job offer in S2G's summer program after graduating from high school; I have worked in the program every summer since. Over the years, I have seen tremendous growth in the pro-

gram. The Succeed2gether Summer Enrichment Program started out with just a few core and elective classes. Seeing how the program has expanded over the course of a few years has been absolutely phenomenal. I really commend all of the staff for organizing this expansion. It provides the students with so much to look forward to. There are now many enrichment courses that the students can do such as drumming, acting, Zumba, dance, programming, and so much more!



I have had many students come up to me and tell me how much they enjoy the program. This is also beneficial to the parents because it is an affordable program that truly does enrich the youngsters by helping them gain skills and knowledge they need in the future. I'd like to thank Succeed2gether for this wonderful program!

Noah Blake
Volunteer and former student

Future Volunteer

Hi! My name is Fatih and I am fifteen. I am from Turkey and I came to the United States one year ago. I could not get a good English language education in Turkey. The S2G program helped me improve my English and math.

At the summer program, we also learned a card game called "bridge." I met high school and college volunteers who helped people if they didn't understand what the teacher was talking

about. These volunteers influenced me and I want to become one of them. Recently, I started to work at the library as a volunteer. I'm delighted to help other people.

Maybe next year I can attend Succeed2gether's summer enrichment program again. However, this time not as a student, but as a volunteer!

Fatih Kurt
Student

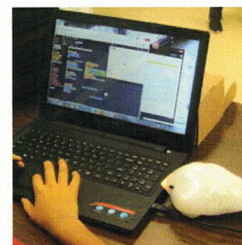
What to Expect in S2G's Summer Program

Succeed2gether is an important part of Montclair. What students learn over these four weeks is what they usually forget over the summer, like Math, and Language Arts. This summer program is for kids to learn about things they have learned and might forget or eventually will learn in the grade they're going into.

My favorite classes were Robotics and Computer Coding. In Robotics we learned how to make our own game with finches. My partner and I were making Mortal Combat. It took a lot of work to do the coding but in the end it was worth it because it was a lot of fun, especially fighting with the other finches. Computer Coding was another one of my favorite classes, because we learned how to code many different types of games starting with a ping-pong game and ending with Catch the Dots. It's a fun class and if I could come here again, I would choose this class to come to.


If I had to choose between this

summer program and another one, I would choose this one. It doesn't only help you with Math and Language Arts, but also in the afternoon students will have fun with the extracurricular activities that they chose.



And when you get back to the school, you will be the smartest student there because you did work over the summer, that other students probably didn't, and their minds are foggy, and you learned stuff that you never learned before. The people who work here are the nicest people and will always be there when you're sad, need help, or just need to talk to someone.

Kimberly Cordova
Student



Save the Date

Montclair Literary Festival
March 16–18, 2018
<http://succeed2gether.org/montclair-literary-festival/>

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