



SUCCEED2GETHER

BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

SPRING & SUMMER NEWS

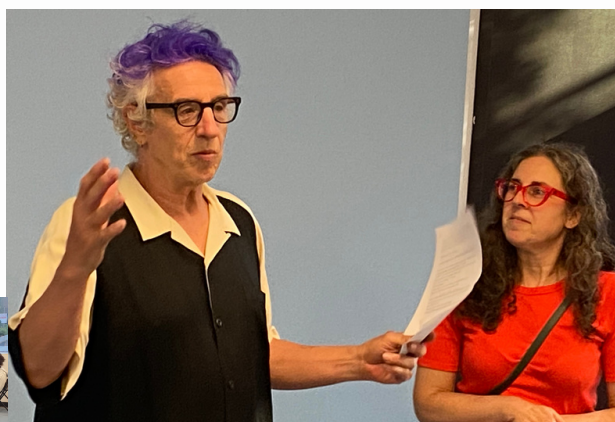
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College Essay Writing Program leaders David Henry Sterry and Arielle Eckstut reveal student successes this year which led to the Pathways Forward initiative. Students attending the breakout session at the launch on June 30, 2021.

Pathways Forward Launch

Succeed2gether launched its new **Pathways Forward** program on June 30, drawing more than 40 people out on a sweltering evening, excited to hear about academic and family mentoring for students starting in 8th grade and continuing for the first year after high school graduation. Others attended via a Zoom session – recorded, so it can be shared.

S2G founder Marcia Marley calls Pathways Forward “S2G’s most important new initiative in my memory.” S2G has provided free and low-cost tutoring to Essex County students in need for a dozen years.

“We have been very successful in bringing kids up to grade level and beyond,” Marley said – but she added a recent discovery: Some S2G students still reach the brink of graduation without a plan for what comes next. Some even get accepted to college, but their families realize too late what financial aid is available.

David Sterry and Arielle Eckstut who started S2G’s College Essay Writing program in 2019 explained that program’s striking success: The first two graduates got into every college to which they applied. “Along the way, we found out how much more there is to it, though,” Sterry said. “The incredible amount of paperwork, the super-complicated financial aid applications, even just figuring out how to register for the SAT.”

Eckstut said her first essay-writing student had no career dreams, and no confidence he could go to college. With S2G’s tutoring, her mentoring, and a committed family member’s help, the student found his way to NJIT as an engineering student – on a full scholarship – next year.

S2G education director Toni Martin and Marley outlined the role individual mentors will have in helping students envision their future, identify resources and learn how to advocate for themselves. Mentors will receive training from professional educators and life coaches, Martin said. However, “the most important quality for a mentor is caring, and the ability to bond.”

Pathways Forward will schedule frequent group seminars and workshops, beginning late summer. Some sessions will be specifically for parents, 8th and 9th graders, and 10th-12th graders. Student sessions will focus on potential career and vocational paths, study skills, and building of an academic résumé, among other topics.

At college application time, Pathways Forward will assist families with SAT prep, college applications, vocational training opportunities and internships. In addition, Pathways Forward will assist families with FAFSA applications and financial aid counseling.

At the launch event, 10 students joined a session led by mentor Laurie Lico Albanese. The kids produced six-word “essays” about their hopes and plans for the future: “I want to own multiple companies,” said one. Another penned this little gem, apropos to all: “Keep going – so close to success.”

Partnership with Montclair State University

We would like to give a big thank you to **Bryan Murdock**, Montclair State University's Director of the Center of Community Engagement, Academic Affairs, for connecting Succeed2gether with **Dr. Lesley Sylvan**, MSU Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Assistant Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Academic Affairs. Dr. Sylvan's contributions to our programs were invaluable last year.

During the 2020/21 academic year, Dr. Sylvan provided S2G with 40 brilliant graduate students over two semesters from her class on Language Disorders in School Aged Children.

During the fall semester, her students not only provided additional tutoring sessions for math and ELA skills, significantly improving our students' academic foundation, they also strengthened their confidence and broadened their horizons with virtual trips around the world.

In addition to continued tutoring support in the spring semester, with Dr. Sylvan's assistance, her graduate students added a series of professional development workshops for our tutors on early literacy development. These workshops provided tips for supporting English language learners, and engaging and motivating students on Zoom, an essential skill for our tutors last year.

In addition to Dr. Sylvan's students, Krystal Woolston, Assistant Director of Center for Community Engagement, provided us with four Bonner students (Valerie Chica, Mikaela Guzman, Chris Giacomini, and Jayde Worthen) from MSU's Bonner Leader Program.

Each academic year, Bonner Leaders commit an average of 10 hours weekly to the community. These Bonner Leaders were an important additional resource that helped sustain and improve S2G's programs during a difficult year. They expanded our staff capacity and outreach through research, video production of our programs, and social media posts. They also were directly engaged in tutoring, monitoring sessions, and one even taught a voice workshop.

These MSU students provided new insights, energy, and expertise to our programs. We could not have provided the amount and quality of support for our students last year without them. We look forward to continuing and deepening this partnership going forward.



Tutoring offered at Y After-Care

This Fall, Succeed2gether will start a pilot program in which students who are in after-care in Montclair schools will also be able to receive free one-on-one tutoring.

In partnership with the Montclair YMCA, S2G tutors will travel to the sites where aftercare is offered, and provide in-person tutoring once a week. The program will start at Nishuane Elementary School which caters to grades K through 2, and then expand to the other schools in the district.

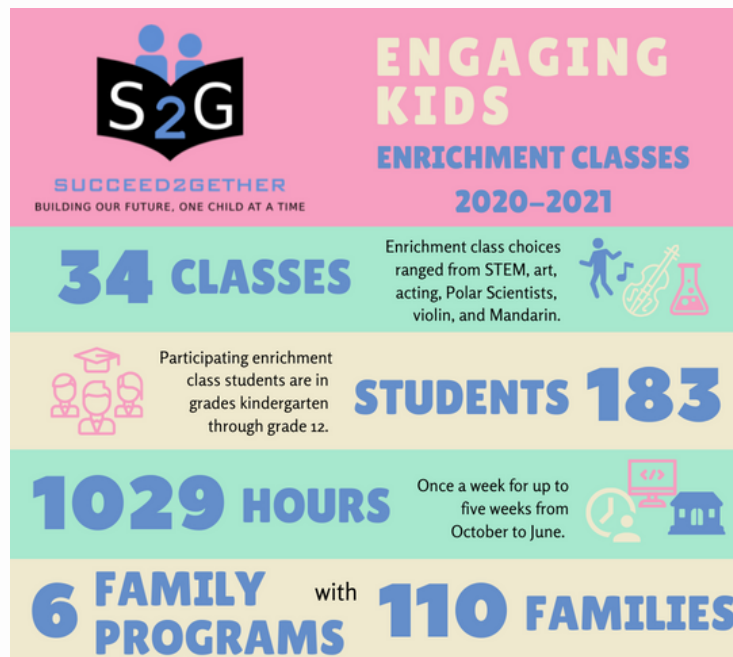
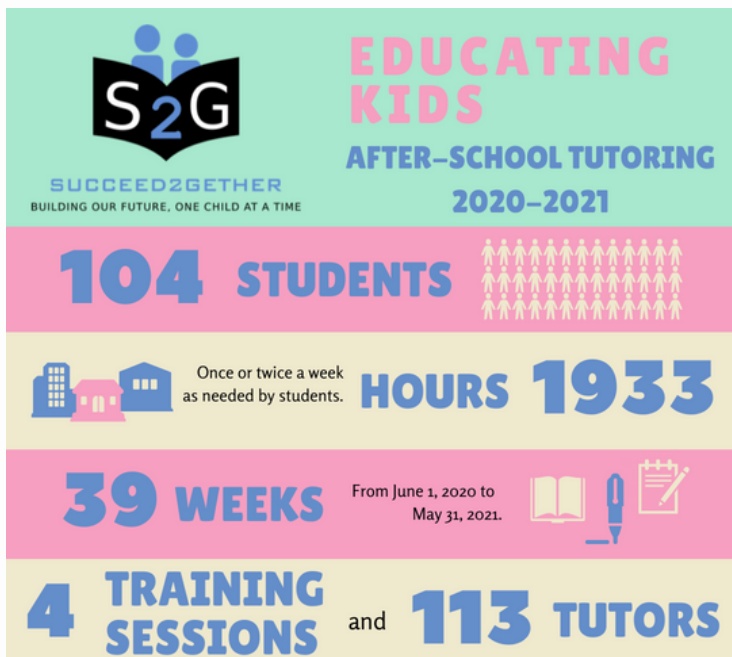
Students need to be registered for and attend the after-care program run by the Montclair YMCA to participate in this program.

Any parents interested in weekly tutoring at Nishuane, please contact Michelle or Jamila at info@succeed2gether.org or call 973-746-0553.



S2G President Marcia Marley sharing information about S2G's programs at the Juneteenth celebration in Montclair.

Our Year in Numbers



Our Year from Tutors, Students & Families

This was a difficult year for every student, even more so for those heading into the pandemic already struggling or a step behind. But our students racked up successes notwithstanding.

Some students made the honor roll for the first time, others turned around a failing grade, improved language skills, mastered geometry, and learned to enjoy online learning in a one-on-one setting.

Many of the families S2G worked with this past year had few resources to sustain them during the switch to online instruction. Students struggled to keep up in “virtual” classrooms. Overburdened parents, and non-English-speaking families, were hard-put to assist them with their academics.

In S2G’s personal “Zoom rooms,” however, many students who felt lost in class were able to find their academic footing with the help of a volunteer tutor. Many even soared.

A high school senior raised his grade average in English from 10% to 98% in the second semester. A 5th grader improved from a C average to become April’s Student of the Month.

Two graduating seniors at Montclair High School who participated in S2G’s College Essay Writing program were accepted into five colleges each, and one garnered enough financial aid to make his “dream college” possible.

"L and L had an amazing school year. They both got on the honor roll and I am the happiest woman on earth! I thank you for their progress. Without you and your tutors, none of this would have been possible."—Lesley, S2G parent



From S2G parent Sahwa: "Due to the wonderful tutoring all three of my children have received within the last year, they all have made honor roll within their respected grade. Even when my kids were confused or needed help on a lesson and there was no tutoring, I simply would call and someone would zoom them and help."

Enrichment Classes

This year 183 students attended our 34 enrichment classes, ranging from art, dance, and acting, to STEM, Mandarin, and violin.

Despite being virtual, the drumming and violin classes were extremely well attended. We even extended the original number of sessions to accommodate the enthusiasm!

Two volunteer violin assistants Eddie Liu and Anthony Zhai provided support for our violin classes which were at capacity. They helped in break-out rooms, with on screen visual support, and created and provided the students with material for practice.

The Rutgers 4-H Youth Development Program ran two STEM projects for us. The first was family-based, with five different science experiments completed at home. Then in the winter, students engaged with marine biologists as part of the Polar Scientists class, which included hands-on activities and creative projects.

In the spring, we partnered with the Montclair Art Museum and artist Raul Barcelona for an eight-week art program. Each week, he introduced an artist along with their style of art, and the students recreated their own work in that specific artist's style.

This year we also worked with Konnekt Global, a new C3 organization, created and operated by high school students. The students ran a series of weekly classes in five different areas: dance (hip-hop and Bollywood), art, theatre, science, and yoga. These classes were full!

Lovlee Tang of Lovlee Art Studios ran a one-night family session, an inspirational vision-board art project. It gave the families a way to plan ahead and look to the future.

We are extremely grateful to our class teachers and all the amazing community groups who made our classes such a success this year. See you in October!!

End of Year Celebration

On Wednesday June 16, 41 students, tutors and S2G staff gathered to celebrate the end of another year like no other (with the exception of the previous year like no other!).

Graduating seniors Zaki Ricketts, Safi Barry, along with brothers Giorgio, Juliuces, and Giovanni Liberati were honored with certificates and some swag. Their stories inspired all the other students and families in attendance.

Congratulations to all our students for working so hard and finishing the year so strongly. We look forward to seeing you in September!!



Graduating seniors Giovanni, Juliuces, and Giorgio Liberati.



S2G students Alan and Alvin Chen



Graduating senior Zaki Ricketts (second from right), alongside his brother, mother, and aunt.



S2G student Chloe Eveillard



Party time!



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SUMMER CLASSES

July 6 –
July 29*

*four-day
weeks

Virtual classes
unless **pink =**
in-person.

Violins (\$20
deposit) will be
provided.



ACADEMICS: JULY 6 – JULY 22

10:00-11:00 am: **ALGEBRA Rising 7th-9th**

10:00-11:00 am: MATH Rising 3rd-5th

10:30-11:30 am: MATH Rising 1st-2nd



1:00-2:00 pm: PRE-ALGEBRA Rising 5th-7th

1:00-2:00 pm: READING/WRITING Rising 3rd-5th

2:30-3:30 pm: READING/WRITING Rising 6th-8th

4:00-5:00 pm: READING/WRITING Rising 1st-2nd

WEEK 1: JULY 6 - JULY 9

4:00-5:00 pm: **HOW TO WIN AN ARGUMENT**
Rising 7th-9th

5:30-6:30 pm: MOVEMENT Rising 1st-2nd

July 9, 15, 22 & 29, August 5, 3:30-4:30 pm:

CODING Rising 6th-8th



WEEK 2: JULY 12 - JULY 15

10:00-11:00 am: **VIOLIN** Rising 5th-8th (3 weeks)

1:00-2:00 pm: DRAWING Rising 8th-9th

3:00-4:00 pm: **INTERMEDIATE/ ADVANCED**
CHESS Rising 3rd-12th

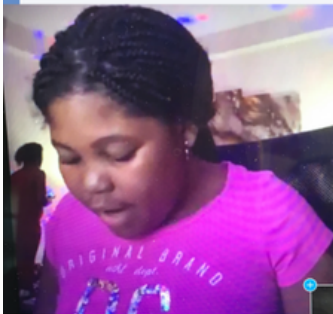
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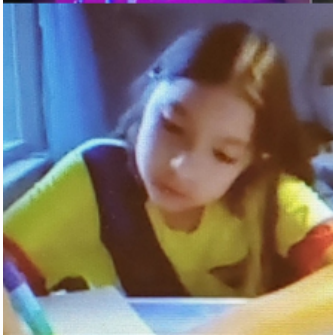
SUMMER CLASSES



WEEK 2: JULY 12 - JULY 15, CONT

4:30-5:30 pm: **ACTING** Rising 5th-9th

5:00-6:00 pm: **MANDARIN FOR BEGINNERS**
Rising 2nd-12th



WEEK 3: JULY 19 - JULY 22

10:00-11:00 am: **VIOLIN, CONT** Rising 5th-8th

11:15 am-12:45 pm: **POLAR SCIENTISTS**
Rising 7th-9th (two weeks)

12:30-1:30 pm: **POETRY** Rising 7th-12th

2:00-3:00 pm: **DANCE** Rising 4th-6th

3:30-4:30 pm: **ORGOMETRY** Rising 5th-7th



WEEK 4: JULY 26 - JULY 29

10:00-11:00 am: **VIOLIN, CONT** Rising 5th-8th

11:15 am-12:45 pm: **POLAR SCIENTISTS, CONT**
Rising 7th-9th

11:30 am-12:30 pm: **DANCE** Rising 4th-6th

1:30-2:30 pm: **CREATIVE WRITING** Rising 4th-6th



WEEK 5: AUG 2 - AUG 5

2:00-3:00 pm: **CODING** Rising 4th-6th

PLUS one-on-one tutoring available in core subjects, one hour a week, contact us to apply.



Thank You to our 2021 Supporters

With the support of our amazing donors, we continued to provide our services to students this year, despite the added difficulties during the pandemic.

Thank you to our Partners and in-kind Donors:

- Montclair Public Library
- Township of Montclair
- Toni's Kitchen
- MFEE
- Montclair State University
- Watchung Booksellers
- Montclair Art Museum
- Konnekt Global
- Rutgers 4-H Extension Program
- Succeed2gether Board Members

Thank you to our 2021 Major Funders:

- The Schumann Fund for New Jersey
- Community Development Block Grant (Essex County)
- Ellen Steinberg
- Angelo & Mary Cali Family Foundation
- Janet Shapiro & Philip Byrd
- Rosemary Iverson
- Rosemary Steinbaum
- The Korones Family Foundation/Susan Gifford
- Frank & Laurie Albanese

Thank you to our 2021 Major Funders (cont):

- Dawn Stennett
- Somadev Pasala
- Whole Foods Market

Thank you to our amazing volunteers.

Thank you to our 2021 Literary Festival Sponsors:

- Rao's Homemade
- West of Hudson Realty Group
- Jill Williams, Ameriprise Financial
- Deirdre & Colbert Narcisse
- County of Essex, Local Arts Program
- NJEA
- Liza Cohn and Bill Wallach
- Mona Jha and John Ashbrook
- Lee Heh Margolies and Kenneth Maiman
- June Zimmerman and Bela Schwartz
- Melissa and David Deutsch
- Suna Chang and Michael Potenza
- Carolyn Gould
- The Silver Family Foundation
- Ferguson Dental Associates
- The Korones Family Foundation/Susan Gifford
- Alex Mochary Kasser
- Karen Wirtshafter



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SUMMER TUTORING

VIA ZOOM

ONE-ON-ONE ACADEMIC SUPPORT

SIGN UP
TODAY

- Qualified, caring, experienced tutors
- Students matched with tutors
- Math & Book Buddies for K-3

- FREE** for qualifying families 
- All students' grades **K-12**
- Weekly – Monday through Thursday** 
- Sessions hourly, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** 
- July 6, 2021 to August 5, 2021**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO APPLY
www.succeed2gether.org 973-746-0553
info@succeed2gether.org

