



SUCCEED2GETHER

BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## After-School Tutoring Program @ Montclair Public Library

### The Record So Far

**The state of the After-School Tutoring Program is robust! As of mid-winter, S2G is reaching more students than last year, has more tutors volunteering, and is providing more service hours—sometimes filling every available desk and seat on the Montclair library's 3rd floor. We have 123 students attending our Monday-Thursdays sessions, compared to 54 students last year at this time. The roster of tutors has expanded to 56 compared to 45 last year. Our tutors, as ever, are a diverse crew, including:**

- **Talented middle and high school volunteers, some of whom have been with us for two or more years and others freshly recruited.**
- **Working professionals, such as Emily Grover-Kopek, a scientist and climate expert, and Linda Ormont, a learning specialist**
- **Retired professionals, such as patent attorney Arthur Mann, currently tutoring S2G kids in algebra, pre-calculus, and chemistry.**

**By the end of 2024, S2G had logged 505 hours of one-on-one tutoring sessions (compared to 353 hours the year before).**

---

# After-School Tutoring Program @ Montclair Public Library

## The Record So Far

Our students predominantly come from under-served backgrounds. In the challenges they face, we see the daily reality behind the persistently stark statistics of the "achievement gap". More importantly, we also see the amazing progress they make when given individual attention.

Most recently, S2G has recommitted itself to building literacy and language skills. The case of a middle-school student who came to us last year unable to read put a dramatic spotlight on the matter. We threw everything we had into helping this student.

Our volunteer learning specialist, Linda Ormont, tutored her weekly and also tutored us – our volunteer tutors and administrators – in "decoding," a technique for building vocabulary and fluency.

We have purchased training materials for our tutors and begun planning for an expanded literacy support program. When grant and donor support is secured, we also plan to strengthen our writing program for younger students, as well as our college essay writing program – part of Pathways Forward.

Meanwhile, the good news: Our latecomer to literacy is now an enthusiastic reader. It was a pleasure to hear her triumphantly pronouncing, "Rumplestiltskin is my name!"

---



# TESTIMONIALS

*Yakob has come a long way since I met him two years ago. He can write an organized essay on almost any topic – fiction or nonfiction. He's able to answer reading comprehension questions correctly, and most importantly, Yakob is open to learning new skills in English language arts.*

*– Steven (retired Teacher)*

*Porque el se siente muy contentento que un niño le enseñe y se inspira en él y dice que algún día también quiere ayudar a los niños para que hablen su idioma.*

*–Maria (Mother of 1st grade student)*

*Kingston is such an amazing tutor. The way that he taught my child Math subject was really significant. If he needed to explain to him twice, he would do it. Mathias enjoys his classes and has learned a lot. Thanks so much, Kingston! You rock! We wish you a lot of success in everything you want to do in the future.*

*–Aurora (Mother to 6th grade student)*

**If you have any positive experiences or milestones or would like to give a shout-out to a student or tutor in the after-school tutoring program, please complete the form below. You might be featured in our next newsletter.**

## ***You Can Make a Difference***

We are in need of tutors for our after-school tutoring students. We currently have students from 1st to 10th grade needing assistance in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies. Call 973-746-0553 or email [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org) for more details.



***NEED HELP WITH ACADEMICS?***

Please email your completed application form to  
[info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)

2024-2025 Student Tutoring & Enrichment Application

***WANT TO BE A TUTOR?***

Please email your completed application form to  
[info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)

2024-2025 After-School Volunteer Tutor Application



# Pathways Forward Updates

## Pathways Forward

We are witnessing significant growth and meaningful progress as we pair students with mentors who guide them through academic and career milestones. With the help of their mentors, the mentees develop their college lists, draft and refine their college essays, and submit college and scholarship applications. These tasks are important as the students prepare for the next chapter in their academic journey. Mentees are receiving tailored advice and support to help them make informed decisions about their futures.

After struggling last year, the program has significantly expanded this year, more than doubling the number of active mentorship pairs, which includes 4 medical student mentors.

As we celebrate the growth of our mentorship program and the strides our students are making, it's important to consider the next steps in this journey. Whether you're a student/family preparing college applications or a mentor supporting them along the way, here are some helpful tips and advice to guide you through this critical time.

## Career Exploration and Goal Planning

Career exploration and goal planning is a continual process that requires self-reflection, research, and trying new things. For students in 8th and 9th grade, this means taking time to think about their interests, hobbies, and academic strengths and exploring how these align with potential careers. During high school, your focus will shift to refining your career goals and identifying the paths that will lead to your dream job, whether it's through college or vocational training. Make use of resources like career fairs, externships and internships, and volunteer opportunities to gain firsthand experience with a potential career. Remember, career planning is not just about deciding what you want to do after high school; it's about creating a plan for how to get there.

---

## Where to Start:

- **Set SMART Goals:** Create Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound goals to stay on track.
    - [SMART Goals Template](#)
  - **Self-Assessment Tools:** Using self-assessment tools helps you gain clarity about your strengths, preferences, and areas for improvement. These tools can guide you in making decisions about a potential career path.
    - [16Personalities \(Myers-Briggs inspired\)](#)
    - [YourFreeCareerTest](#)
    - [High5Test](#)
  - **Job Shadowing/Internships/Pre-College Program:** Job shadowing and internships allow you to experience various industries and roles first-hand. This helps you assess whether a certain career path is a good fit before committing.
    - Reach out to your mentors or S2G staff and ask if they can connect you to internship or job-shadowing opportunities in your desired field.
    - Apply for internships, volunteer opportunities, or part-time roles in fields you're curious about. Below are some opportunities here in New Jersey
    - **STEM & Medicine**
      - [NJCCIC High School Internship Program](#) (cybersecurity)
      - [Rutger New Jersey School of Medicine](#) (Medicine, STEM)
      - [Science Outreach at Princeton University – Laboratory Learning Program](#) (Engineering)
      - [Hackensack Meridian Health High School Exploration Program](#) (Medicine)
      - [Princeton Plasma Physic Laboratory](#) (STEM)
      - [NJIT – Programs for Pre-College Students](#) (STEM)
      - [The Governor's School of New Jersey in Engineering & Technology](#) (Engineering, Technology)
    - **Writing, English, Journalism**
      - [Princeton Summer Journalism Program](#) (Journalism)
    - **Arts/Museum**
      - [The MET Summer High School Internships](#)
      - [Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University](#)
-



# You've submitted your college applications. What are you doing now?

## **Great job on completing your college applications!**

Once you've clicked "submit" on your college apps, it's easy to think the process is over—but there's still plenty to do! After submitting your application, you should continue checking your application status, scheduling campus visits if possible, and continuing to stay engaged with your schools of interest. Many colleges require you to submit additional documents, such as mid-year transcripts or updated test scores, especially for students applying in the early action or early decision rounds. While you're waiting for decisions, it's a great time to begin narrowing down your list of schools based on factors like financial aid, campus culture, and location. Remember that you may also need to prepare for interviews, so make sure to stay in communication with each college and check your email frequently.





# College Application Post-Submission Checklist:

## **1. Check Your Application Status Regularly**

- Log in to your college application portals to ensure everything has been submitted correctly.
- Monitor any updates or additional requests from schools (e.g., missing documents or application updates).

## **2. Schedule Campus Visits (if possible)**

- Plan visits to campuses to get a feel for the environment and culture.
- Schedule tours or attend information sessions to engage with admissions staff.

## **3. Submit Additional Documents (if required)**

- Prepare and submit mid-year transcripts or updated test scores (check with individual schools if required).
- Be aware of any specific deadlines for submitting these documents, especially for early action/early decision applications.

## **4. Set Reminders for Important Deadlines**

- Create a calendar or set reminders to keep up with deadlines for submitting additional materials, such as transcripts or test scores.

## **5. Narrow Down Your List of Schools**

- Revisit your list of schools and prioritize based on factors like:
  - Financial aid offers
  - Campus culture
  - Location and proximity to home
  - Housing
  - Extracurricular

## **6. Prepare for Interviews or Supplementary Steps**

- Review any invitation for interviews, portfolio submissions, or other supplementary application steps.
- Prepare in advance for interviews by practicing common questions and understanding the school's offerings.
  - Conduct a mock interview with your mentor or S2G staff member.

## **7. Stay in Communication with Each College**

- Check your email frequently for any correspondence from schools (admissions, financial aid, interviews, etc.).
- Respond promptly to any requests or additional steps required from the colleges.

## **8. Stay Organized**

- Keep track of all your application materials, deadlines, and any additional documents needed.
  - Use a spreadsheet or app to stay organized with all your college application tasks and dates.
-

## Financial Aid Resources:

Navigating the world of financial aid can seem intimidating, but understanding the types of financial assistance available and when to apply is important for making your college dreams a reality. Federal financial aid, including grants, loans, and work-study, is available through the FAFSA and must be completed annually. The state of New Jersey also offers various financial assistance programs through the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESSA), which can provide significant relief for in-state students attending New Jersey colleges. In addition to these sources, local scholarships can help bridge the gap between the cost of attendance and your financial aid package. Many communities, businesses, and foundations offer scholarships to support students pursuing higher education. You can find these opportunities through your school's guidance office and scholarship databases. Always be sure to double-check eligibility requirements and application deadlines, as they vary.



## Here are some important resources and deadlines to keep in mind:

### 1. **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):**

- The FAFSA opens every October 1st. Submit it as soon as possible to maximize your eligibility for federal financial aid (including grants, loans, and work-study programs).
- **Website:** FAFSA.gov
- **Tip:** To apply, you'll need your and your parents' tax information (for dependent students) and other financial documents.

### 1. **New Jersey State Financial Aid (HESSA):**

- The *Higher Education Student Assistance Authority* (HESSA) provides grants, scholarships, and loans to New Jersey residents.
- Make sure to check out the **NJ Financial Aid application** and the *New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)*, which could significantly reduce your tuition costs if you attend a New Jersey college or university.
- **Website:** HESSA

### 1. **Montclair Scholarship Fund:**

- For students attending Montclair Public High Schools, the Montclair Scholarship Fund is a valuable resource for those seeking financial assistance to attend college. These scholarships are specifically designed to help alleviate the financial burden for local students pursuing post-secondary education. To apply, students must complete an application through the Montclair Public Schools website, which will include a review of academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and community service. Additionally, students may need to provide letters of recommendation and an essay outlining their future academic and career goals. Being awarded a Montclair Scholarship Fund scholarship not only eases the financial load but also recognizes the hard work and dedication of Montclair students. Stay on top of application deadlines and ensure your application is complete to increase your chances of receiving funding.
- **Deadline:** Opens mid-February – closes mid-March
- **Website:** <https://www.montclairscholarshipfund.org/>

### 1. **Other Scholarships:**

- **Scholarships.com** and **Fastweb.com** are great resources for searching national and local scholarships. Look for ones related to your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, or community service.
  - Don't forget to ask your school counselor about local scholarships from businesses, community organizations, and alumni.
-

## SAT/ACT Testing:

As you approach the next phase of your college journey, preparing for the SAT or ACT is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure you're giving yourself the best shot at admission to your top schools. While some schools are moving toward test-optional policies, submitting strong test scores can still improve your chances of gaining acceptance, especially to highly competitive programs. It's important to research the testing requirements of the colleges you're applying to and plan accordingly. If you haven't already taken the SAT or ACT, schedule your test dates well in advance to ensure you have enough time to study. There are plenty of resources available to help you prepare, whether you're looking for practice exams, study guides, or online courses. Free resources, such as those offered by *Khan Academy* for SAT prep or *ACT Academy*, can be a great place to start. Additionally, local test prep centers and online platforms like *PrepScholar* and *Magoosh* offer paid services for those seeking a more structured study plan. Use practice exams to track your progress and identify areas where you need improvement. Remember, consistency and practice are the keys to your success.





## Preparing for the SAT or ACT can seem overwhelming, but with the right tools and planning, you can tackle them with confidence!

### 1. Upcoming SAT and ACT Test Dates:

- **SAT:**

- March 9, 2025
- May 4, 2025
- June 1, 2025

- **ACT:**

- February 10, 2025
- April 13, 2025
- June 8, 2025

### 2. Where to Register:

- SAT: [CollegeBoard SAT Registration](#)
- ACT: [ACT Registration](#)

### 3. How to Prepare:

- **Free Resources:**

- *Khan Academy* offers personalized SAT prep based on your practice test results. [Khan Academy SAT Prep](#)
- *ACT Academy* offers free resources and practice tests. [ACT Academy](#)

- **Study Guides:**

- Invest in prep books from *The Princeton Review*, *Kaplan*, or *Barron's*. These books provide practice tests, study tips, and test-taking strategies.

- **Practice Tests:**

- The best way to prepare is to take full-length practice tests to become comfortable with the format and timing.

## Remember: Stay Organized, Stay Positive!

The college and career planning process can feel overwhelming at times, but it's important to stay focused and break down each step into manageable tasks. Stay organized by using planners, creating to-do lists, and setting reminders for important deadlines. Revisit your goals to make sure you're on track and adjust as needed. Whether you're navigating the college application process, figuring out your career path, or applying for financial aid and scholarships, you don't have to do it alone. Our team is here to support you every step of the way, and so are your school counselors, teachers, and family members. Stay positive, believe in yourself, and keep pushing forward toward the future you desire. You've got this!

---

## Stay connected with us!

Remember to stay connected with your mentor and S2G throughout your journey. Sharing updates, questions, and challenges helps us provide ongoing support and guidance to help you succeed. We're here to assist you every step of the way.

### **JOIN THE PATHWAYS FORWARD PROGRAM**

8th – 12th-grade students

Pathways Forward Mentor Student Application

Please email your completed application form to [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)

### **WANT TO BE A MENTOR?**

Pathways Forward Mentor Volunteer Application

Please email your completed application form to [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)

---

# Enrichment Program:

## Enrichment Program News: Fall Enrichment Recap, Winter A Wrap-Up, & Winter B Sneak Peek

### **Fall Enrichment Recap:**

This fall, our students truly embraced the opportunity to explore new passions and develop their talents. Whether it was mastering strategies in **Chess**, discovering the science of food in **Guardians of the Food Galaxy**, or expressing themselves through **Dance** and **Improv Acting**, it was amazing to see their growth. We were especially excited to see such an increased interest and growth in our **Improv Acting** class, where students showed impressive creativity and confidence on stage!

### **Winter A Enrichment Wrap-Up:**

As we wrap up our **Winter A** cycle, we want to thank all of our participants in **BoysSTEM**, **GirlsLAB**, **Chess**, **Personal Writing**, **Coding**, and **Improv Acting** for their dedication. This season has been one of incredible growth and creativity, and we couldn't be prouder of the hard work our students have put in.



# Enrichment Program:

## Winter B Enrichment Schedule (March 3 – April 10, 2025):

**Looking ahead, here's a sneak peek at the Winter B session lineup**

### MONDAY:

**Guardians of the Food Galaxy presented by Montclair Community Farms (4th – 8th Grade)** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | March 3, 10, 17, 24, and April 7

**Chess (3rd – 12th Grade)** | 5:15 – 6:16 | March 3, 10, 17, 24, and April 7

### TUESDAY:

**Writing (3rd–5th Grade)** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 | **Presentation Day (tentative):** April 8

### THURSDAY:

**Dance (1st–5th Grade)** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | March 6, 13, April 3, 10

**Coding (6th–8th Grade)** | 4:30 – 5:30 pm | March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3

**Improv Acting (7th–12th Grade)** | 5:00 – 6:00, March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 3

We're excited for Winter B and can't wait to kick off these new classes. As always, stay tuned for more details, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

**See you in the Winter B sessions!**

### SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:

**Secure Your Spot Today!**

Our summer program will run Monday through Thursday, June 30th through July 31st. We offer Reading/ELA and Math classes from 9 a.m. to noon each day, and Enrichment classes begin at noon. Please call Michelle at 973 -746-0553 for more information and to secure your spot today!

***WANT TO TEACH AN ENRICHMENT CLASS?***

*Volunteer Application*

*Please email [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)*



# How did you learn about Succeed2Gether?

Please share [here](#)



**11 Pine Street**

**Montclair, NJ 07042**

**Office Phone: 973-746-0553 or 973-746-0556**

**Email: [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org)**

Newsletter Prepared by Toni Martin and Yasmine Perry,  
Co-Directors of After-School Tutoring Program

