



Hicksville Special Education & Pupil Personnel Department

NEWSLETTER

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2023 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)

As the Coordinator of the Extended School Year (ESY) program at Woodland, I had ambitions of a remarkable summer filled with learning, fun, and engagement; however, it surpassed my expectations immensely. As an Assistant Director of Special Education & PPS in the district and ESY Coordinator, I had the privilege already knowing so many of the students attending the program. I also had previously formed positive relationships with some of the family and professionals from all of our buildings throughout the district which made the transition from school year to summer seamless.



This summer, ESY was at Woodland Elementary School with students from kindergarten to twelfth grade and beyond. We were fortunate enough to have dedicated professionals from all of the buildings in the district to teach and assist all of our students. We also had our safety, security, and health 100% covered by our incredible nurses and security professionals.

Our program's primary focus was to prevent regression and promote retention. In addition, we also had outstanding vendors join us to increase student engagement, promote movement and exercise, and provide comfort and happiness. The joy that was brought to the children's faces and the laughter from all solidified the success and achievement and celebration of the whole child. Each day, dedicated professionals supported students, implemented their IEPs, incorporated skills needed for daily life, modeled respect, kindness, compassion, mental health, and social-emotional learning.



READING AT ESY

In addition to the ESY full-day program, we delivered a K-12 reading support program to continue to teach reading strategies for all different subjects with many different modalities and strategies. The program would not have been as successful as it was without the dedication and perseverance of the students. Their smiles were contagious and I can still hear the laughter echoing throughout the halls. Lastly, I would like to thank the parents for allowing their children to attend the program. It was an honor and privilege to be the coordinator of the Extended School Year Program, and I look forward to more summers filled with academics, fun, friendships, positivity, and success.

By: Bryan Offermann

CREATING CORE MEMORIES

Throughout the summer we had invited various groups to our Extended School Year Program, creating events, experiences, and the most phenomenal core memories for our students.

Canine Companions for Independence is a fantastic organization that brings service dogs to schools, businesses, and homes to aid in creating a more independent world for people with disabilities. This summer, we had the handsome pup, Walker, and his handler Diane, come to our school twice, meeting and greeting our students in their classrooms. He is calm and patient with our students, allowing them to pet him and hug him. Some of our students even read to and had a nice chat with Walker. What an incredibly special pup!



Building on the momentum of our doggie visitors, we also invited some humans! We invited a company called *Zing!* to our Extended School Year! *Zing!* focused on each student's unique abilities to build strong bodies and minds. While *Zing!* was at ESY, our students spent 45 minutes per class in our gymnasium, getting to stretch, strengthen, and use their muscles in some fun and competitive activities. As Coach Michele told us, "You are all amaZing!"

Another special event was having the *New York Islanders ICE Tour* come to ESY for a fun-filled day! The ICE Tour brought a bouncy house, an obstacle course, a slap shot goal station, and TONS of New York Islanders swag for each student and staff member to bring home to their families. With the help of the Islander's mascot, Sparky, our students enjoyed the thrill of going to a game, right in our own backyard! LGI and ESY!

By: Renee Rust , Special Education Teacher



A GROWING PROGRAM

This is my second year as a teacher in the ESY summer program. Throughout these 6 weeks my students came into class each and every day putting a smile on my face, as we did the same for them. ESY is a time to achieve goals in a fun and positive way and let our students enjoy their time here.

This year my class was amazing! They all worked hard, supported each other and always came in ready to work. My students worked on reading, writing, math but they also created crafts and their very own writing books. Having the support of all of my teacher assistants really made ESY even better. Everyone was always on the same page, making the days smooth and the progress and goals achievable. Every year this program grows and creates new ways and opportunities to help these students but also each other. This year was a success because of all of the wonderful people we were able to work with. Looking forward to see what is next!

By: Stephanie Seguna, Special Education Teacher



FRIENDSHIPS LAST FOREVER

We had an amazing time during Hicksville's ESY Summer Program. Students spent the summer working hard, playing with old friends and making new ones. Our favorite activity was following recipes to create sensory activities each week. We made slime, play-dough, calming glitter bottles, and chalk paint. Students practiced following directions, measuring and patience. They had the opportunity to make each activity their own by choosing their own colors. It was an enjoyable summer for both students and staff.

By: Ms. Kornacki , Special Education Teacher



A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT

What an incredible experience it has been teaching ESY this summer! Aside from our daily curriculum and activities, we provided students with enrichment opportunities that included school visits from Canine Companions and the New York Islanders Mascot, Sparky! Overall during the course of this program, the students were engaged academically, socially and cognitively. This was definitely achieved throughout the summer as I saw my students coming into class smiling, greeting me and asking what they'll do that day. These were students wanting to come to school and that in itself gave me a sense of fulfillment.

Teaching ESY this summer has been both rewarding and demanding. By staying flexible and adapting to my students' needs, I was able to enjoy the opportunity to make a positive impact on them in a shorter time frame. Thanks to the help of my support professionals Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Coreas and Mrs. Kahn, we were able to have a safe, positive and memorable experience this summer. A huge thank you to Mr. Offermann for his motivation, inspiration and moral support that has helped us maintain our enthusiasm throughout the whole program.

Mina Anwari, Special Education Teacher



WISHING YOU A SUCCESSFUL 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Special Education and Pupil Personnel Department would like to welcome you back from a well-rested time off. We cannot wait to hear your summer stories and smiling faces on the first day of school. Our team has been working hard this summer to ensure that the students enter into a year prepared and ready for new adventures. We are anxiously awaiting your arrival and extremely excited to begin our next journey together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the civil service professionals for their dedication and hard work this summer. On behalf of the entire Special Education Department, we would like to welcome you to Hicksville's 2023-24 school year!

Warmly,

Inna Mishiev, Chris Snow, Vicki Montalvo, & Bryan Offermann

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEAC- October 3, 2022 at 7:00PM

Topic: Elementary ICT

Video call link: meet.google.com/xqc-ifcy-mxq

Save the Date

SEAC/SEPTA Meeting - September 18, 2023 at 7:00PM

Topic: Meet Your Special Education Department Team

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