



SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER LEARNING IN MICHIGAN

Woodhaven-Brownstown School District & City of Woodhaven Recreation Department

Partnerships Expanding Access to Summer Learning

During the summer of 2020–21, a partnership between [Woodhaven-Brownstown School District](#) and the [City of Woodhaven Recreation Department](#) expanded a small Title I summer school program and a traditional recreation program that had served about 100 students in the past to serve over 600 students from five elementary schools. Partnering to provide academic and social-emotional support along with recreation and fun in students’ local school sites, the superintendent and recreation director agreed that they achieved the “right balance” of enrichment and academics. The 30-year-old partnership with parks and recreation was critical to turning summer school into summer camp.

“Parks and rec is not just watching kids play. The counselors are interactive; they play the games. They’re someone the kids look up to. ... We do a lot of collaborative games where the kids work together as a team. These are life-building experiences that can be lost as an important part of kids’ lives.”

– City of Woodhaven Recreation Department Director

Summer by the Numbers

- 5 Sites
- Grades K–5
- 40 Total Days
- 600 Students

District Snapshot

- 5 Elementary Schools
- 2,362 Students
- 6% English Learners
- 50% Economically Disadvantaged

Snapshot source:
[MI School Data](#),
2021–22 school year

Program Design

Category	Component of Design	Research-Based Considerations*
Program Structure	Duration	Two 4-week sessions, for a total of 40 days of summer programming for up to 7 hours each day.
	Program Size	Program serves 120 students at each of the five sites.
	Recruitment & Attendance	Emphasis on a positive, fun environment to increase attendance; targeted recruitment of students principals believe would most benefit from the mix of academics and enrichment; advertisement via internal and external district and city communications channels.
	Enrichment Activities	Emphasis on collaborative games that are life-building experiences, such as scavenger hunts, problem-solving, board game sections, and a Youth Olympics.
	Academic Curriculum	Learning experiences in math and reading provided by the district, including the use of iReady for differentiated learning.
Personnel	Academic Staff	Certified teachers on site 3 days per week, 3 hours per day.
	Enrichment Staff	Sixty-five counselors lead park activities 5 days per week, 7 hours per day.
	Leadership	Partnership between the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District and the City of Woodhaven Recreation Department.
Partnerships	Partner Roles	Enrichment activities and staff as well as program leadership provided by City of Woodhaven Recreation Department.
	Agreements	“Handshake deal” based on a 30-year-old relationship between the recreation department and the district.
Operations	Facilities	Rent-free use of school buildings and food service and nutrition for breakfast and lunch provided by the district.
	Transportation	Provided by the district.
	Funding	U.S. Department of Education American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, Title 1 funds, and community funds for recreation.
	Evaluation	Data collected includes student perception data, daily attendance rates, and academic progress in math and reading (via iReady).

For more information on how the Michigan Department of Education is supporting partnerships, visit its [Out-of-School Time & Summer Learning web page](#) or email Richard Lower at LowerR@Michigan.gov.

Page 1 caption: Students participating in Woodhaven-Brownstown School District summer programming.

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Office of Program and Grantee Support Services within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, by the Region 8 Comprehensive Center at ICF under Award #S283B190013. The U.S. Department of Education does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of any outside information included in these materials. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education. No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, enterprise, curriculum, or program of instruction mentioned in this document is intended or should be inferred.

