



June 2023

Dear parents/guardians,

Five years ago, the Roxbury School District began to review and revise our expectations for the summer learning experience with some substantial changes from the traditional summer reading assignment. The work focused on reframing the summer learning experience to align with what the research indicates, that access to high-interest learning materials and opportunities for skills maintenance is paramount to reducing the potential for the “summer slide.” We have continued to reflect on our summer learning protocols and expectations in an attempt to balance high interest for students with active participation. As we conclude the 2022-2023 school year, we have continued to reflect on feedback received from students, parents, and teachers about summer learning opportunities as well as the value of students participating in summer learning experiences. In doing so, we also recognize the high value of social emotional wellness as being critical to the development of our students. For these reasons, this summer’s experience will be strongly recommended, but not required. We will continue to offer a wide array of opportunities that are interdisciplinary in nature and will support students’ continued interaction with meaningful learning experiences. We strongly encourage students to participate in these meaningful summer learning experiences which is why staff and supervisors have worked so hard to identify standards connected to choice opportunities that are of high interest. Research continues to indicate that students who have access to and participate in meaningful learning experiences over the summer will start the school year off stronger and better prepared than those who do not. The maintenance of a partnership between the school and home that encourages investment in a culture of learning is meaningful and powerful for everyone.

All learning experiences regardless of grade level or course will be ***strongly recommended*** with the overarching expectation being that all students “prepare for tomorrow” by striving for excellence each day. It is important to acknowledge that while students are strongly recommended to participate in summer learning experiences, **specific high school honors and AP courses will have summer requirements** which will support them in their understanding of complex content as well as their ability to hit the ground running at the beginning of the school year. All work that is completed should be submitted to the appropriate teacher in accordance with the teacher’s shared expectation. Teachers may also ask students to reflect on their summer experience upon returning to school so that we can continue to reflect on this process to ensure we are providing the very best opportunity, access, and encouragement to students.

The success of student participation requires a joint effort of encouragement from the district and the home so students can return to school in August prepared to learn. It is our hope that this program continues to serve our overriding focus of providing expanded choice and exposure, but

also provides meaningful connections to a variety of learning experiences that are exciting and individualized which encourage participation to support preparation for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Links to the appropriate grade band and content websites outlining these experiences can be found here:

[Elementary Summer Learning](#)

[Secondary Humanities](#)

[Secondary Math/Science](#)

Students will have their Chromebooks over the summer so they can also easily connect with a tutor through Tutor.com by logging into their Classlink Account.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the appropriate content supervisor or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Seipp".

Charles Seipp, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent