The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB)

Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired (B/VI) not only have the Kentucky Standards to learn, but also the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). These skills include, but are not limited to orientation and mobility, social interaction, independent living and self-determination. Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) plans their summer programs to cover the ECC with an emphasis on self-advocacy.

KSB hosted a summer camp for all school age students. The theme was "The Game of Life" and activities focused on fitness, nutrition and money skills. Students explored topics through art, exercise and hands-on activities. They cooked, created centerpieces and participated in fitness games. All students walked to Kroger and bought needed supplies and ingredients for cooking.

There were 23 elementary and 13 middle and high school students who attended KSB summer camp. The younger students enjoyed a day at Malibu Jack's where they played laser tag, mini-golf and rode go-carts. The older students learned the basics of archery and enjoyed a day at Kentucky Kingdom. Also, they participated in a fun scenario of how to host a meal for friends. Staff guided students on how to clean and cook for the event. Throughout all activities, the staff encouraged students to practice self-advocacy skills and the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC).

Juniors and seniors who are Blind or Visually Impaired (B/VI) across the state have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Work Program at KSB. This summer, 23 students attended the program and worked at American Printing House (APH), Kentucky Kingdom and the Louisville Zoo. Before leaving for the afternoon jobs, students worked on self-advocacy, resume writing, appropriate work behaviors and other work related skills.

Jobs at Kentucky Kingdom and Louisville Zoo included:
- Grounds/Janitorial
- Retail shops
- Front Gate/tickets
- Food Service
- Games (Kentucky Kingdom)

Jobs at APH included:
- Braille Proofreading
- Assistive Technology
- Café-working in all areas from stocking shelves to running the cash register and taking orders

The Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

Many students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) live in homes and communities where no one speaks American Sign Language (ASL), so they face isolation. Therefore, KSD offers several options for students in the summer. KSD summer programs provide students with language immersion, learning activities and time with similar peers.

First, KSD hosted its annual Family Learning Vacation for three days and two nights. Twenty-nine families attended (56 parents and 58 students). Students participated in games and learning activities, while parents attended educational sessions related to services for students who are D/HH. The students participated in activities with drones, robots and dance. The KSD staff led the informational sessions for parents with topics ranging from "Understanding the IEP" to "Early Language Acquisition". Parents were also given the opportunity to have a Q&A with a panel of adults who were deaf.

KSD held its annual Summer Camp in June. There were 41 campers ages 5-13 who participated in an "Exploring the Arts" theme with an emphasis on blacksmithing, Bhangra dancing, drumming and visual arts. WHAS generously provided ASL tutoring daily for the campers. The students visited the Josephine Sculpture Park, went bowling, swimming and watched movies on the lawn. The week culminated in students performing an African drum performance and unveiling a mural for parents.

KSD's Agriculture Camp for high school students was attended by 22 campers and included visits from Miss Kentucky and the Agriculture Commissioner. The focus was on Horticulture. Campers visited a University of Kentucky (UK) farm, the UK Arboretum, Bluegrass Stockyard and local nurseries and garden centers. They participated in four-wheel and lawnmower safety courses and enjoyed a weekend camping trip at Fort Boonesborough.

The summer programs ended with KSD hosting a six-day cyber camp! The camp was free to all students and was funded by government grants. The students learned basic cybersecurity and STEM skills. The topics included networking, 3D printing, Cryptography, Digital Forensics, online safety and others.