

## **Gallatin County Upper Elementary Summer School 2020–21**

Nicole LeGrand, Assistant Principal

During our first three week session of summer school, our average attendance was close to 80 students each day. We had two classroom teachers per grade level, a special education teacher offering services, a speech and OT teacher, and one additional support teacher for a couple of weeks who helped with our most challenging and largest grade level. We opened the doors at 7:50 so students could grab their on the go breakfast, and summer school began at 8 o'clock each morning.

Our academics focused on two core areas of math and reading, although all subject areas were incorporated through the provided instructional activities. While walking through rooms I saw students working together in small groups putting stories in sequential order, reading both fiction and nonfiction texts, reviewing math through hidden pictures, and many other engaging practices. Our teachers did a great job providing a varied repertoire of educational experiences in fun and unique ways.

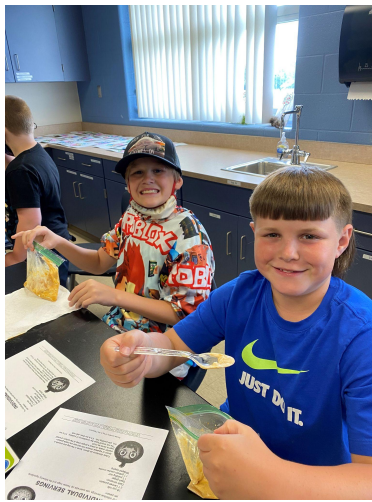


Thanks to Mrs. Flowers and her great FRC team, the students also were engaged in many wonderful enrichment activities. Some of these activities included kite flying, art classes, physical education classes and games, preparing projects for 4H, the list goes on and on. Students averaged 2 to 3 enrichment activities per day.

We are now a little over one week into our second three week session, and our numbers are averaging around 47 students as close to 30 were only referred for three weeks of support. This summer school experience has been such a success that just the second day in this second session a parent called and asked if their student could

return for the second three weeks as he had enjoyed it and missed it. We said absolutely, and he returned the next day.

Again our enrichment activities have been spectacular. We have had the bubble truck, SkoolAid, a juggler, and MadCap puppets, just to name a few more that the FRC team arranged for us. The 4H projects continue, and students enjoyed making individual banana pudding cups just the other day. The fifth grade class had several who said they were aspiring to become chef Gordon Ramsay as they were preparing their tasty treat. It was great to see their personalities shine through as they were enjoying such a wonderful experience. Every student also got to plant a red oak tree with the Arboretum and take it home with them.



Ways to improve upon this year's experience might include using our case assessment data next year to pinpoint standards that individual students need support in mastering. This would allow us to teach with precision, making sure that we are focusing on the individual needs of each student. This would take some preparation on the front end, so it might also be nice to have a few days between staff closing day and the beginning of summer school so that those who are teaching have more time to prepare after the busy end of the year as a classroom teacher.