

Summary Report to the MVWSD Board of Trustees

Update on Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Summer Intersession Programs

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Background:

Aligning to Strategic Plan Goal Areas 1, 3, and 5, and pursuant to state requirements outlined in AB 185, staff developed and implemented an Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (“ELOP”) summer intersession program for qualifying students (unduplicated pupils in rising grades K-7) “MVWSD+ Summer Camp” took place across two elementary sites: Castro Elementary and Theuerkauf Elementary between June 7 and July 7, 2023.

Planning for a new model of summer programming

MVWSD has historically offered summer school each year, with the principal focus of remediation in math and/or ELA. In 2022, the district summer school had a budget of approximately \$690,000 from the general fund. With the advent of the ELOP and associated funding sources, a strategic decision was made by staff to turn the focus of summer programming toward providing an enrichment-oriented camp that would help qualifying students build valuable schema and background knowledge needed to participate more meaningfully during the school year. The budget for the 2023 MVWSD+ Summer Camp was approximately \$410,000.

Planning for the June-July 2023 MVWSD+ Summer Camp began in Winter 2022-23. After a review of past years’ programming and preliminary conversations at the Cabinet and Leadership Team levels, a survey was sent to teachers for their feedback and to gauge their level of interest in participating. Based on the results of the survey, internal staff discussions, and the specific requirements of ELOP funding, a programmatic model was developed: ELOP students would attend a full day Right At School (“RAS”) or YMCA summer camp, and various push-in enrichment classes would take place on top of regular camp programming. RAS would operate the camp at Castro and YMCA would operate the camp at Theuerkauf.

Beginning in February 2023, MVWSD teachers were recruited to teach the bulk of the enrichment classes. Teachers could choose how many weeks they would participate and whether to implement the district enrichment program, Imagineerz which focuses on hands-on problem-solving and social-emotional learning through engineering challenges, or an enrichment program of their own design. District staff also collaborated with the Silicon Valley Educational Foundation, Canopy, and Community School of Music and Art to fill out other portions of the schedule. Additionally, specially-designed language development sessions were developed for students newly arrived in the United States. In Spring 2023, four lead teachers were also brought on to assist with programming and operations.

Communication to families and summer camp enrollment support was offered beginning in April 2023 with the cooperation and assistance of site leadership, secretaries, and the School Community Engagement Facilitators. Logistical planning, including the hiring of various support personnel, the identification of students who needed extra staff support and transportation, continued throughout Spring. Training for RAS and YMCA staff was

developed by the lead teachers and district staff. District staff also collaborated with Imagineerz Learning to facilitate orientation and training for summer camp teachers.

In addition to the in-house program described above, MVWSD continued to partner with the Jose Valdez Math Institute, who transported approximately 70 middle school students to West Valley College for summer math classes, and with Peninsula Bridge, whose annual off-site summer program to support students from traditionally underrepresented groups continued in Summer 2023 with more than 50 participants.

Results

- In total, 651 students participated in summer programming in June and July, with the majority enrolled at the MVWSD+ Summer Camps at Castro and Theuerkauf.
- 45% of students in the district who qualified for district-sponsored summer programs participated.
- Participation was highest among rising 3rd and 4th graders, with 56% and 55% of qualifying students enrolled, respectively.
- Participation was lowest among rising 6th and 7th graders, with 34% and 29% of qualifying students enrolled, respectively.
- Each site's UPP summer participation percentage: Bubb 40%, Castro 44%, Imai 49%, Landels 41%, Mistral 59%, Monta Loma 41%, Stevenson 49%, Theuerkauf 54%, Vargas 41%.
- 462 students participated in +Summer Camp only
- 64 students participated in Elevate Math and +Summer Camp
- 72 students participated in Valdes Math
- 53 students participated in Peninsula Bridge
- +Summer Camp staff consisted of two administrators, 30 teachers, including four lead teachers, the ELD TOSA, and Elevate Math teachers, and nearly 40 support staff, and between 20 and 25 RAS/YMCA Leads and staff.
- The attendance percentage at +Summer Camp was approximately 70-75% at Castro and 60-65% at Theuerkauf.

Impact

- The 2023 summer programs provided much needed summer childcare for over 650 students from more than 550 families.
- The programs provided knowledge-building enrichment opportunities to a critical population of students. Depending on teacher and provider schedules and availability, students participated in hands-on problem-solving via Imagineerz lessons, music, art, and Canopy outdoor education programs in the mornings.
- Brunch, lunch, and an afternoon snack were served daily.
- In the afternoons, students participated in traditional day camp activities facilitated by RAS/YMCA staff.
- Staff are currently tracking medium- and long-term impacts of summer programming on academic achievement and social emotional health.

Challenges

This was the first time MVWSD's summer programs had been conducted in this fashion, and it was the first time multiple childcare operators had engaged in such a large-scale effort on our campuses.

Despite copious planning, two specific challenges became apparent as soon as program began on June 7:

- the relative preparedness of the partners to run an engaging full day program with a school-day-style schedule
- the availability of support staff to help address the health and safety needs of a small subset of students

To respond to the first challenge, staff coordinated with partners to re-train partner staff mid-summer on specific expectations and strategies for operating an engaging program for nine hours each day. For the second challenge, staff recruited student-facing classified staff members who needed a summer job to help support individual students with special needs, and enlisted the help of outside staffing agencies to identify, train, and assign additional support staff for those students. Staff also managed the day to day operations of the camp, responding to student, family, and staff needs just as they would during the regular school year.

Lessons Learned

- Beginning planning earlier in the school year helped to manage the complexity of designing and implementing a revised summer program.
- Partners YMCA and RAS need us to engage them in summer planning from the beginning so that they can maximize their time to prepare their staff and programs.
- Collaboration with many departments, especially the Special Education department, was key to resolving specific student needs related to IEPs.
- Based on teacher feedback, Imagineerz programming had a positive effect on students, but a more diverse curriculum for more kids would increase engagement.
- Early and frequent communication to qualifying families and support staff was critical to a relatively smooth enrollment process.
- It is challenging to start a summer program the day after the last day of school - a slightly later start in 2024 would give staff more logistical breathing room.

Next steps

- Utilize lessons learned from Summer 2023 to improve the program for 2024.
- Begin planning for Summer 2024 by December 2023.
- Track academic performance of students who attended camp versus those who had the opportunity but did not.