

THE NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE



Summer 2022

National Summer School Initiative

2022 Overview

Accelerate learning	1
Build stronger teachers	6
Bring back fun	11
See our results	12
Join us	16
Our story	17

Accelerate learning

In person or virtual, deliver live, engaging, grade-level instruction for all students in grades K-12 this summer in ELA and math. Discourse-based, culturally responsive curriculum. Your teachers. Our expert mentors. Working together to conquer learning losses.





THE PROBLEM

A generation at risk

COVID continues to take a heavy toll on students across America. Students, at every grade and at every ability, need to make up lost ground. If we fail to act now, they face potentially catastrophic academic, social, and economic consequences.

Offering an academically rich summer school to all students can be an important part of the solution.

We'd welcome the opportunity to work with your leaders to mount an innovative and effective summer learning program to combat learning losses—and build teacher capacity.

THE SOLUTION

A five-week accelerated learning experience

Expert, award-winning teachers lead teachers across America in delivering vibrant classes in ELA and math every day.

Like sitting in the back of the class of the best teacher in the building, partner teachers see their mentor teacher's craft and moves—and have the opportunity to make them their own. Teachers arrive to class uniquely prepared, confident, and invested in the content. Students return in the fall ready to tackle grade-level content.



The Program

ALL GRADES

Daily 15-minute advisory—Connection, Celebration, and Challenge—to start the day

ELA

MATH

K-2

- Literature
- Writing

- Problem-solving
- Math foundations

3-8

- Novel Studies
- Close reading

- Problem-solving
- Math foundations

9-12

- American Studies *or*
- Global Studies

- Algebra, *or*
- Geometry

English Language Arts

Exploration of outstanding, culturally responsive literature is at the heart of our ELA program. All classes are discourse-based, privileging our students’ ideas and voice. Our focus is on making meaning, not following procedures. Carefully selected nonfiction texts build background knowledge that deepens engagement with the novels and fuels student discussion, while grounding it in evidence



Grades K-12

LITERATURE. Each week of the program, students explore one award-winning, beautifully told and illustrated text, chosen to capture children’s imaginations and provoke abundant conversation. Each class includes a combination of read-aloud and independent reading, and, always, a rich discussion.

WRITING. High expectations drive our class in written expression. Students learn to accept feedback from their teachers and classmates and revise their work to make their ideas understood. Every day, students write and revise for 45 minutes, in kindergarten, writing simple sentences; in second grade, sophisticated multiple-sentence compositions.

Grades 9-12

Set up students for success in rigorous humanities classes in high school and beyond. In our two high school classes, **AMERICAN HISTORY** and **GLOBAL HISTORY**, each week students explore a turning point in history, exploring literature from and about that time, as well as primary and secondary source materials. Each week starts by building essential background knowledge on the turning point and culminates with a rich seminar discussion and a writing assignment.

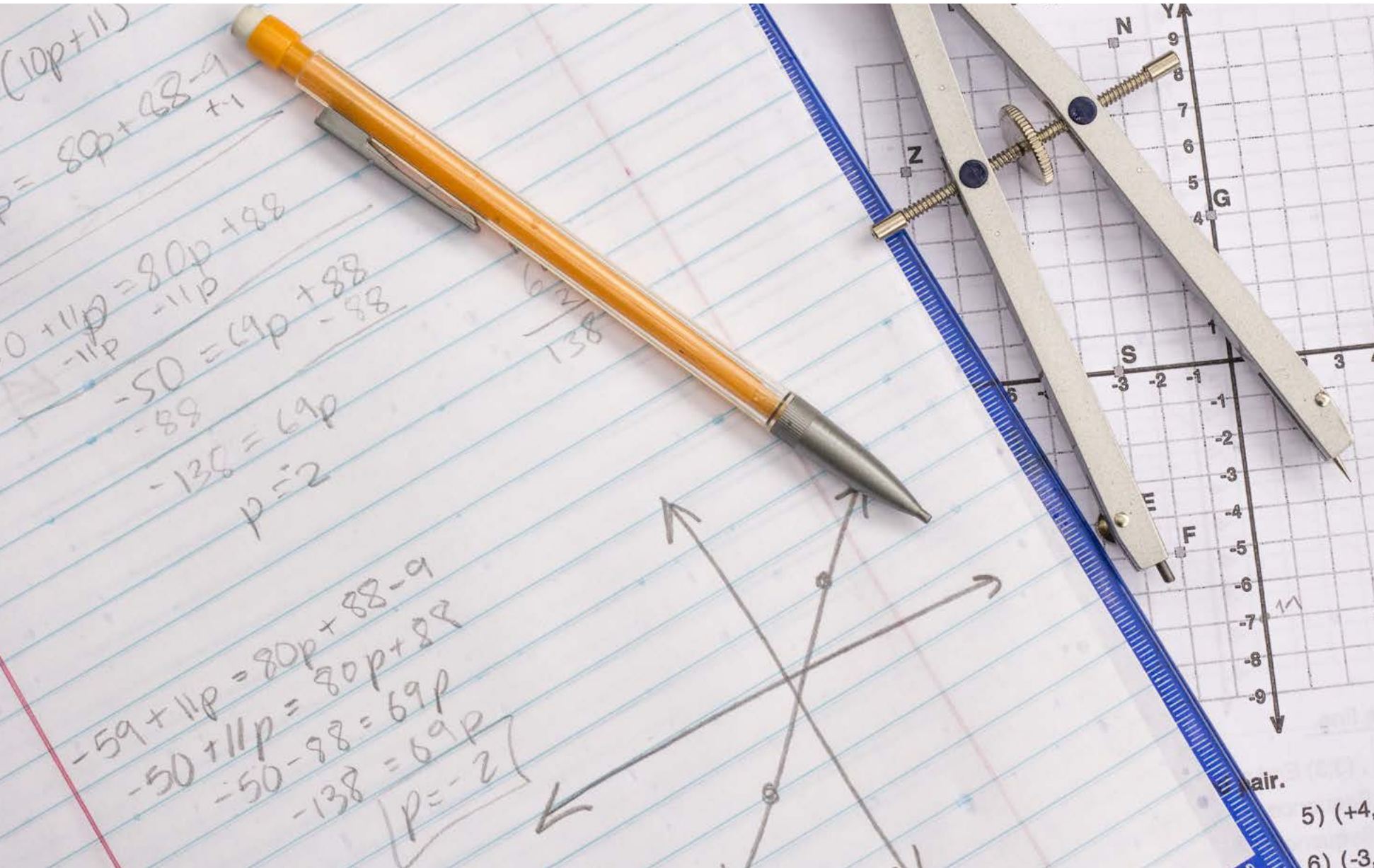
Grades 3-8

NOVEL STUDIES. Reading and discussing an exceptional novel, students discover the deep pleasures of great writing, develop their voice, and build critical thinking skills that they can apply to any novel they read.

CLOSE READING. Like literary detectives, students set out to unpack the meaning of challenging fiction and nonfiction texts of exceptional merit. Their reward: access to the work’s deepest insights and claims on our imagination. Newly equipped, they stand ready to tackle above-grade level works on their own with confidence and precision, appreciative of the author’s craft and artistry.

Math

Math is more than the standard algorithm. At NSSI, students build on their own mathematical conceptions, engage the ideas and conjectures of their classmates, and build deep conceptual understanding. By targeting the grade’s essential standards, we prepare students to thrive in the next grade.



Grades K-12

PROBLEM-SOLVING. Using cognitively guided instruction, each child uses his or her own emerging mathematical conceptions to solve a real-world problem. In the discourse, children learn to share their strategies and listen to those of their classmates, deepening their own understanding of foundational ideas.

MATH FOUNDATIONS. Students gain fluency with math facts and operations through daily practice. Each week engages one or more essential math standards necessary for success in the next grade.

Grades 9-12

ALGEBRA 1 and **GEOMETRY** are gateway courses for success in advanced math; NSSI provides student a jump start. Our high school classes are primarily aimed at students who are about to enroll in Algebra 1 or Geometry in high school. They can also be used for remediation and credit recovery, or for advanced middle schoolers. Each class highlights the critical, foundational standards of the discipline and deploys NSSI’s discourse pedagogy to build deep understanding.

Grades 3-8

PROBLEM-SOLVING. In Math Stories, students explore a single real-world problem, devise their own approaches, and contrast them with their classmates’ solutions. In the discourse, children see how each approach arrived at the same answer. The beauty of math is revealed, and deep conceptual understanding is built. Students are excited to engage a more efficient procedure next time.

MATH FOUNDATIONS. A second period is devoted to the mastery of essential grade-level math skills (the power standards essential to success in the next grade), extensive practice and generalization, and math fluency. Students grapple with a new problem or idea before the key concept is stamped. Students then have the opportunity to practice similar problems with supportive feedback from their teacher. Use existing.

Build stronger teachers

Welcome to an entirely new approach to improving instruction. Together with their same-grade peers nationally, teachers work in sustained partnership with award-winning mentors. Watch their mentor's moves. Make them their own. See their students soar.



Exceptional professional learning

The heart of our model is an intensive investment in professional development. Before the program launches, every participating teacher will benefit from a week-long Institute that deeply prepares them in the specific pedagogies and curricula.

Then, twice each week, teachers will join their peers across the country in a National Grade Team Meeting. Each session focuses on the two essential levers of great instruction: intellectual preparation and student work analysis.

INTELLECTUAL PREPARATION

In Intellectual Prep, teachers have the time to go deep in the novels, texts, and mathematical problems they will be exploring with their students the next week.

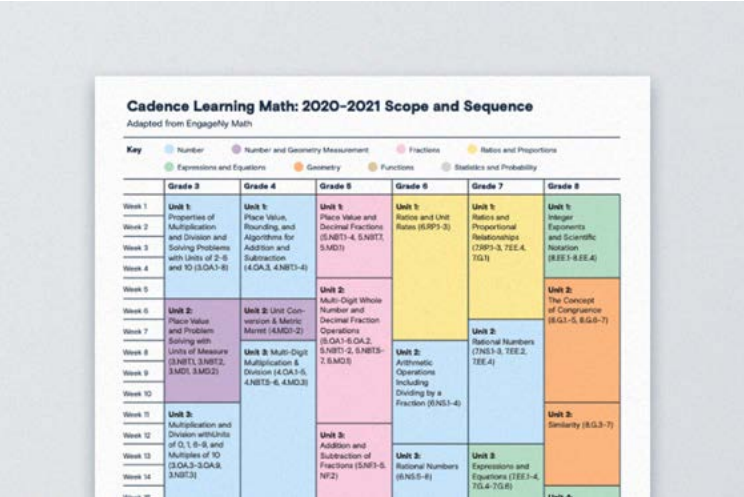
STUDENT WORK ANALYSIS

In Student Work Analysis, teachers look closely at what their students are actually producing. Teachers ask: What can the work tell me about my students’ conceptions? How should I adjust my course?

TEACHING TOOLS

Everything to ensure outstanding live instruction, every day

NSSI equips your teachers with exceptional resources—everything they need to lead classes focused on critical thinking and intellectual discovery.



Scope and sequence

Our curriculum is rigorous, relevant, and engaging. In math, our scope and sequence is aligned with Eureka/Engage NY and combines cognitively based instruction centered on real-world story problems with fluency practice and mastery-based teaching. In ELA, students explore culturally responsive, award-winning works of literature for rich class discussion.

“ I asked my students to rate the novel *One Crazy Summer* on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best book I ever read. It got mostly 5s. I will definitely teach it again.”

AVERY KOOSMAN
3RD GRADE ELA

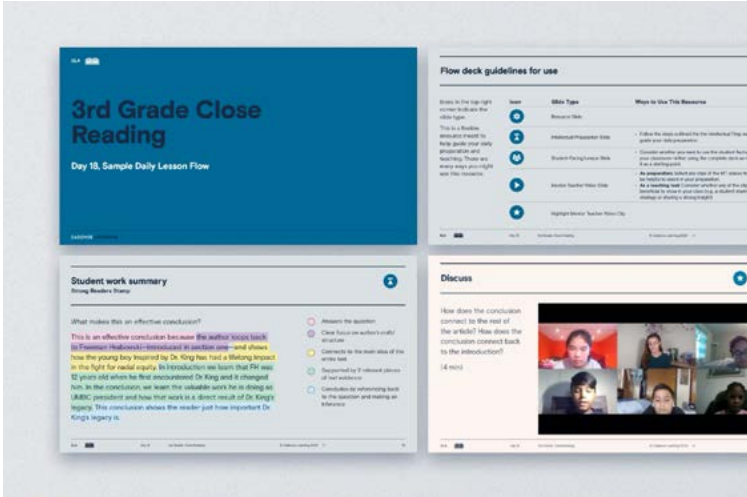


Lesson overview

The daily Lesson Overview guides teachers through the necessary intellectual preparation to teach each lesson. Both math and ELA Lesson Overviews include key understandings, lesson flow, and common misconceptions. ELA lessons offer vocabulary, reading questions, and discussion and writing prompts; math lessons present a story problem, comprehension questions, equations and strategies, and fluency routines.

“ I love the rigor! I didn’t think my kids could handle it but they stepped up. They are really producing good work.”

OLYVIA KOZICKI
4TH GRADE ELA TEACHER



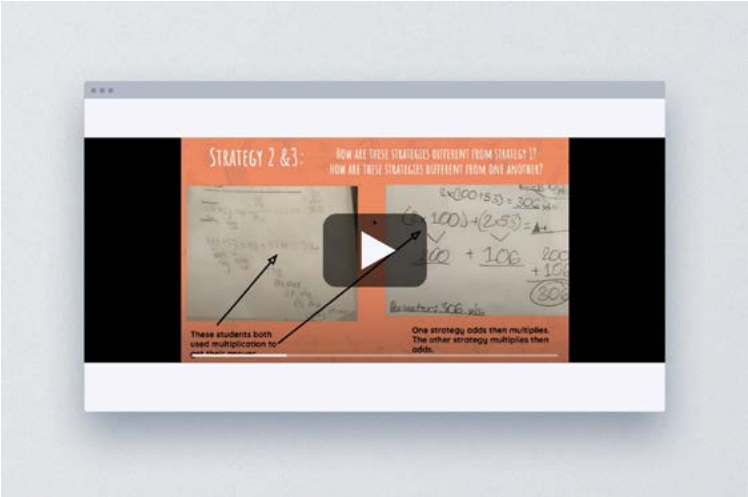
Flow decks

The flow deck contains, in one place, everything the teacher needs to prepare for the lesson and readily deliver it:

- intellectual preparation and background
- likely student misconceptions
- examples of exemplary student work in the lesson
- question sequences
- student-facing slides
- embedded video segments of the mentor teacher’s delivery that can be played in class

“ It was super helpful to have all that work done for me. I had the videos and slides. NSSI built the plane and I got to fly it.”

QUINCY BARNES
4TH GRADE ELA TEACHER



Mentor teacher videos

Like sitting in the back of the room of their strongest colleagues, teachers can watch the day’s entire lesson taught by dynamic and effective mentor teachers to their own showcase students. They learn how to navigate the lesson themselves. And they may choose to share key portions with their class.

“ My mentor teacher was so transparent. She would tell us about mistakes she made during the lesson and what to do instead. I always followed her suggestions.”

AVERY KOOSMAN
3RD GRADE ELA



Student-facing materials

In addition to all the curricular materials to prepare the teacher, we also provide student workbooks with reading and discussion questions for ELA and story problems for math.

“ I really liked the program because I got a lot of chances to put my ideas into the conversation. I never felt shy about asking questions. Sometimes when I got stuck she gave me sentence starters and that really helped me get my ideas out. I know I’m a better writer.”

ANISTON CLEMINGS
8TH GRADE STUDENT

Meet our mentor teachers

Meet three of our exceptional educators.



Wayne Banks

Wayne began his career as a TFA corps member teaching high school chemistry and physics in the Chicago public schools, where he led more than 400 students to make four years of growth each year. After serving as assistant principal of STEM education and programming at a Chicago vocational high school, Wayne realized that his students lacked sufficient command of math to excel in the sciences. For three years, Wayne has taught mathematics to middle school students at KIPP New Jersey, where he is currently principal-in-residence. Wayne has a B.A. from Washington University, where he studied biochemistry and molecular biology, and a M.A. from Columbia University.



Aly Shampain

Aly began teaching first and third grade at Success Academy Charter School in New York City as an integrated co-teacher and grade team lead; she went on to become the school's special education teacher support service provider. She was soon selected to be a “labsite” teacher, an exemplar for the Success network. While teaching special education in the 2017–18 year, 93 percent of her class was found proficient or advanced on the state ELA exam and 96 percent on the math exam. Aly then became a second-grade head teacher at The Dwight School, an international network of private schools, where 91 percent of her students read at or above grade level. Aly earned her B.S. from Pennsylvania State University in elementary education and a dual M.A. from Touro College.



Jenika Mullen

As a Teach for America corps member, Jenika taught second grade at Achievement First's Endeavor Elementary School in Brooklyn. In her eight years with the network, Jenika has also taught kindergarten and third grade, and served as an academic dean, instructional coach and curriculum developer. Her students have consistently excelled; in 2017, a remarkable 49 percent of her students were found “advanced” on the Connecticut Common Core exams. Currently, Jenika is principal of Achievement First's Aspire Elementary School. Jenika earned her B.S. in elementary education from Pennsylvania State University and her M.Ed. from CUNY Brooklyn College.



I'm used to programs where the teacher explains the thinking behind a solution but with NSSI, I ask questions to put the thinking work on my students. I love that there is time for revision built into every lesson. My students have learned how powerful it is to have a discussion and then go back and revise their work—maybe they had the wrong answer but more likely they discover and then try a different strategy.”

GRISELDA GARCIA, 6TH GRADE MATH PARTNER TEACHER



Bring back fun

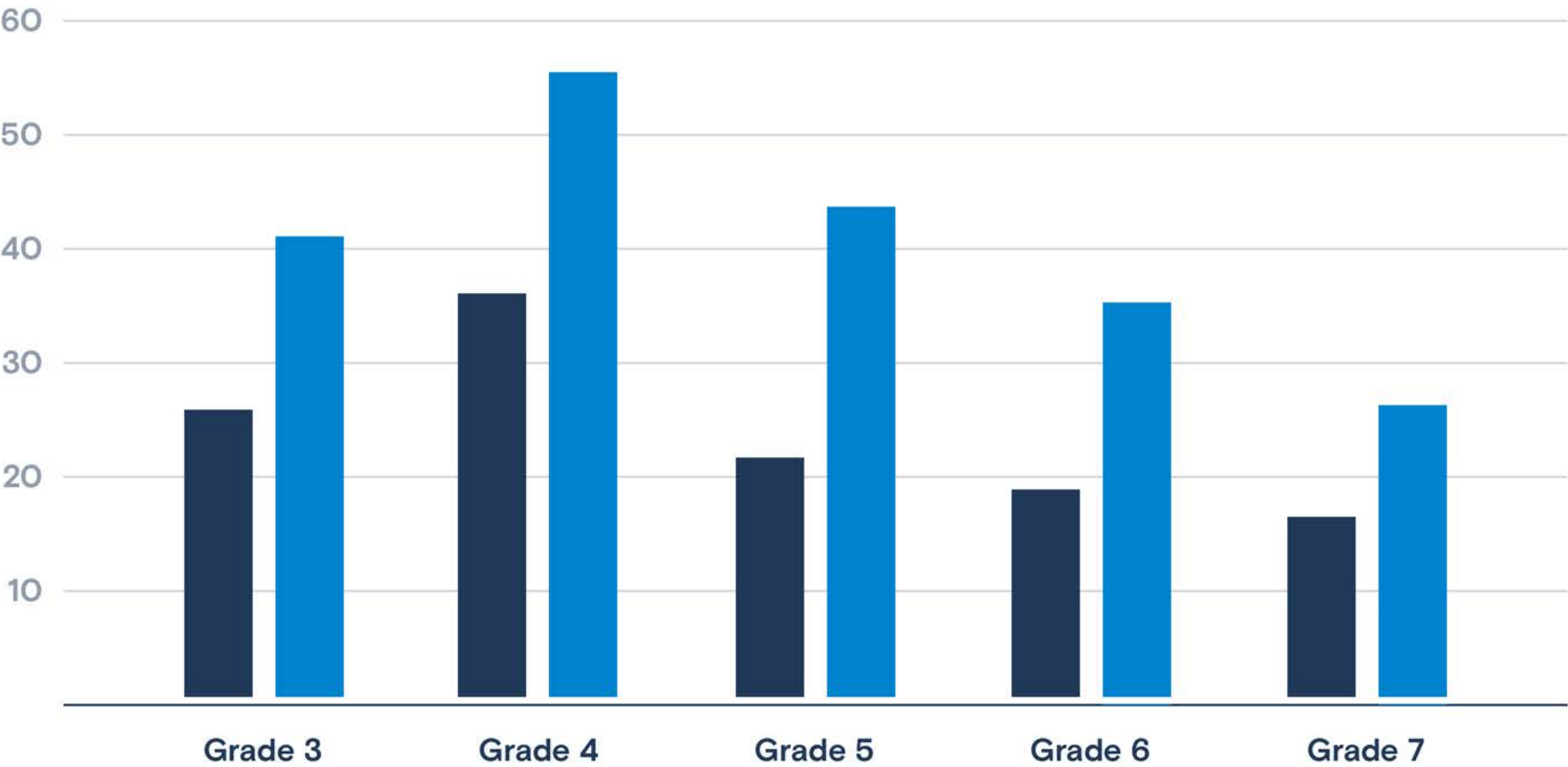
Learning is more than academics. Students crave connection and community. Develop safe and fun activities to supplement our academic program. Outdoor sports and games. Art and crafts. Chess. Robotics. Wherever your creativity takes you.



Our Results

■ Pre-test ■ Post-test

Math

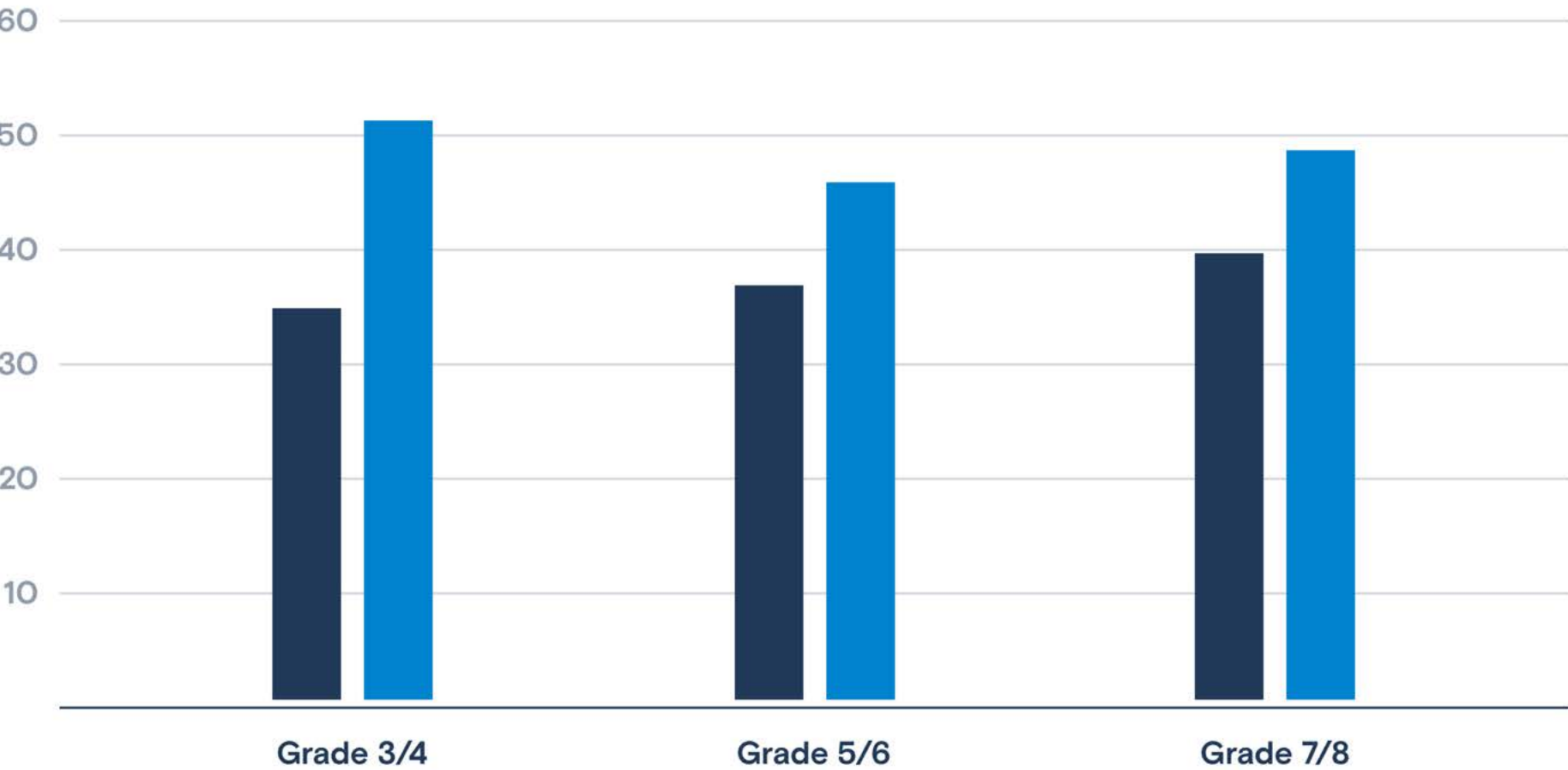


Students learned—a lot.

Last summer, students were given 30-minute pre-tests in both literature and math on the first day of the program, and post-tests as the program ended, both constructed of released state exam items.

Students made striking gains in every grade and subject—in just five weeks.

ELA



Hear from our partners



SCHOOL LEADERS SEE NSSI AS A HUGE SUCCESS.
of participating district and school leaders say they would recommend NSSI to other schools.



TEACHERS CONSISTENTLY PRAISE THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM.
of partner teachers agreed that “the daily lesson videos and lesson flow documents provided by the mentor teachers are strong.”



BOOK LOVERS ARE BORN.
of students agreed or strongly agreed that the program’s novels made them want to read every day.



FAMILIES ARE THRILLED.
of families this summer said they were likely or extremely likely to recommend other students attend a summer school that uses NSSI’s programming—with 62% selecting the highest possible response, a 10.



“

This trimester, my students had an average of 12.6 points growth—3X the target. This is especially astounding because the growth on the MAP was even across high, middle, and low-performing students—only students with poor attendance had lower scores. Students’ scores were up across areas, including vocabulary, literature, and nonfiction. All this is particularly impressive as most students are ELLs.”

ANNE BARNES, 6TH GRADE ELA PARTNER TEACHER





Harvard and University of Virginia scholars found that students in NSSI Summer 2020 improved their academic skills and gained confidence.

- 92% of parents, when asked if they would recommend the program to other students, responded with a 9 or a 10 on a 10-point scale.
- In an independent evaluation, Harvard and University of Virginia researchers found that large majorities of participating teachers agreed that students improved their academic skills (82%), gained confidence in their academic abilities (83%), and became more interested in school and learning (72%) as a result of NSSI.

“

I honestly felt like all of my kids, they improved. Pretty much across the board they all said, I read differently now. And I pay attention to what I read. And I’m going to be thinking about what I read and what it means for my life.”

FROM A SUMMER 2020 ELA PARTNER TEACHER

Join us this summer.

- Available to schools, districts, networks, and community organizations.
- Three five-week summer sessions—find the dates right for you
- In person or virtually—your choice
- Available to schools, districts, networks, and community organizations
- Reach hundreds of children, at low cost.

Three sessions

	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
Admin Institute	June 1-2	June 15-16	June 29-30
Teacher Institute	June 7-10	June 21-24	July 5-8
Student start	June 13	June 27	July 11
Student end	July 15	July 29	August 11



We are not a “vendor” but rather a not-for-profit, philanthropically funded entity, led by experienced educators with a record of running high-achieving schools.

Together we design and implement the accelerated learning solution you seek.

In response to the challenges presented by Covid-19, last spring we came together to design and implement a highly innovative summer program in collaboration with local education partners across the country.

Eight weeks after the organization’s launch, the summer program was successfully serving 12,000 students.

Our equity commitment

Our five-part organizational commitment to leading for racial equity includes:

1. rigorous curriculum that tackles texts and ideas that are at or above grade-level
2. leveraging students’ voices and expertise through discourse and deep thinking
3. intentional connection and relationship-building, led by a diverse mentor teacher team
4. psychologically safe classrooms, and
5. a culturally responsive curriculum that foregrounds and celebrates BIPOC authors and thinkers and elevates their voices and perspectives.



Good morning, I just wanted to thank you for being an awesome teacher during summer school. I know we barely started school but my grades are really up like they never been before. Mostly in ELA I always used to get kinda bad grades but after summer school I have gotten better. I have 5 “A’s” and 1 “B”. I really just wanted to thank you so much. Anyways bye, have a great day.”

APRIL ROSAS, 6TH GRADE STUDENT



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