



# Summer ENRICHMENT CAMPS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
ROCK ISLAND-MILAN SCHOOL DISTRICT



2022 REPORT



Summer is a unique time for children and Spring Forward is always evolving summer programming to meet families' needs. The most pressing concern we address is the growing disparity in opportunity that exists.

Research has shown that the most vulnerable students fall behind when they do not have access to the same types of learning experiences, enrichment opportunities, and positive adult role models as their more affluent peers.

The staff and board are grateful to be part of a rich landscape of organizations and individuals helping families in the community reach their full potential. Summer camps in 2022 brought families, teachers, staff, volunteers, and community-based organizations together to prepare bright, young scholars for the upcoming school year.

Camps were provided at no cost to families thanks to American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds through the Rock Island Island-Milan School District and grants from the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, John Deere Foundation, United Way, Ascetra Credit Union Foundation and other private support. Meals were provided by Two Rivers YMCA's Nourish program.

# Overview

Students entering first through sixth grade from all nine elementary schools were enrolled.

- Rock Island Academy
- Frances Willard
- Earl Hanson
- Longfellow
- Center for Math and Science
- Denkmann
- Eugene Field
- Thomas Jefferson
- Ridgewood Elementary



**June 13 - July 15**  
Monday - Friday, 9 am - 2pm

	M	T	W	TH	F
9-9:30AM	Check-in and Breakfast				
9:30 - 11:45AM	Literacy and Math				Field Trips
11:45AM - 12:30PM	Lunch and Play				
12:30 - 2PM	Enrichment with Community Partners				

**23**  
**CAMP**  
**DAYS**

## "BE THE LIGHT"

Spring Forward's 2022 camp theme was "Be the Light" in memory of former Ascentra Credit Union President and CEO Dale Owen. Dale was a servant leader who recognized the importance of summer learning. He believed in volunteering, partnering with others, paying it forward and truly making a difference in the lives of others. He left us with a simple message of inspiration to "Be the Light" to others.

The "Be the Light" idea was shared with staff, campers, stakeholders, and families. The message was weaved in throughout the day and emphasized during social emotional learning (SEL) activities, teambuilding and yoga.



## ENROLLMENT

Spring Forward staff worked with teachers and principals to identify and recruit students who were in need of extra academic support and likely to attend. The goal was to identify 15 students per grade level at each school. Enrollment started in early April and concluded late May.

SCHOOL	ENROLLED
Rock Island Academy	70
Frances Willard	62
Rock Island Center for Math and Science	60
Earl Hanson	50
Thomas Jefferson	53
Longfellow	36
Eugene Field	65
Denkmann	65
Ridgewood	48
Martin Luther King Center*	120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>629</b>

**\* Spring Forward employed three teachers at the Martin Luther King Center's summer camp.**



## ATTENDANCE

Research backs up the common-sense notion that summer learning programs are more effective when students show up to learn. Spring Forward relies on families voluntarily participating on a regular basis and implemented several strategies to encourage attendance. New in 2022 was an end of camp pool party at White Water Junction for campers who attended 80% or more days.

**629** CAMPERS ENROLLED

**44** TEACHERS

## CAMP STAFF

Summer staff included 44 Rock Island-Milan School District Teachers and 32 other district staff members. Training was held the week prior to camp (June 6-10). Teachers prepared with a district instructional coach and support staff attended sessions led by Illinois After-School Network and Spring Forward staff.

# Academics

Combining academics with fun and engaging activities is the foundation of any effective summer learning program. Spring Forward's Monday – Thursday schedule included math and reading with teachers in the morning with additional support from Read United volunteers.

One of the goals for summer camps was to help fill in the learning gaps and equip children with new skills when they head back to school. Children typically lose some academic skills during the summer, but the pandemic created an even greater need for summer learning. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said,

*"Summer learning programs have always been important for our students but in the last couple of years, they have become essential. Quality summer learning and enrichment programs are key to recovering from the pandemic."*

# 34.5

**HOURS OF MATH & READING  
INSTRUCTION PER CAMPER**

FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING 23 CAMP DAYS



**72 READ UNITED VOLUNTEERS**

65 *Read United* volunteers started at Spring Forward's after school program and 65 volunteers in the spring. The partnership continued over summer with 72 volunteers who were partnered with campers and read to them twice a week.



**MEASURING  
ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS**

Spring Forward staff will work in partnership with the Rock Island-Milan School District to collect and analyze student MAP Scores. MAP, or the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth. Scores will be collected from spring (2021-22 school year) and fall (2022-23 school year).

Groups measured will include:

- High Attenders - 18 or more camp days
- Low Attenders - 17 or less camp days
- Students recruited and enrolled who did not attend camp

# A Community Behind Our Kids

## ENRICHMENT PARTNERS

It's been proven that academic enrichment and extracurricular activities offer many benefits, including increased concentration and recall skills, enhanced communication skills, and better team player skills. Summer enrichment builds a foundation of children's lifelong ability to learn about new things and become confident learners. The Quad Cities has a rich landscape of organizations that stepped up to provide enriching activities for Spring Forward campers.

- Ballet Quad Cities
- Challenge to Change
- Family Resources
- Figge Art Museum
- First Tee of the Quad Cities
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois
- Junior Achievement of the Heartland
- John Deere Lego League
- Rock Island Public Library
- Nahant Marsh Education Center
- Nest Café
- Putnam Museum
- Quad City Symphony Orchestra,
- American Red Cross
- Illinois Extension 4H
- Scoutreach Illinois Council
- STEAM on Wheels
- Rock Island Parks and Recreation also taught skills in baseball, football, basketball, soccer and cross country

**28**  
**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



## Summer learning happens in the classroom and in the community.

Spring Forward field trips included natural areas and parks, museums, and other great places. Campers went on six field trips, which allowed many children to have experiences they would not otherwise have. Trips included:

- Schwiebert Park spray ground
- Nahant Marsh Education Center
- Maquoketa Caves
- Whitewater Junction
- Figge Art Museum
- Putnam Museum
- Boy Scouts' Camp at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve
- Bettendorf Family Museum
- Rock Island Botanical Center
- Niabi Zoo
- QCAA Wetlands
- Scott County Park
- TPC Deere Run (John Deere Classic)
- Camp Abe Lincoln
- Highland Bowl
- Wildcat Den
- Stepping Up for Summer Learning at the TaxSlayer Center
- Mississippi River (Living Lands and Waters)

**FIELD TRIPS**

**6** **FIELD TRIPS PER CAMPER**



## SUMMER MEALS

Summer camps mean summer meals for children. During the school year, most of our children are provided breakfast and lunch through the school's free or reduced meal program. When school is out, many children are at risk of having to go without nutritious meals. No Kid Hungry conducted a national summer meals survey with low-income parents that found most low-income families report spending more on food during the summer, with an average increase of \$316 per month. An estimated 23,000 meals were served in partnership with Two Rivers YMCA's Nourish program.



**Summer ENRICHMENT CAMP PARENT NEWSLETTER**

**OFF FOR THE HOLIDAY**  
There will be no camp on Monday, July 4th and Tuesday, July 5th. We will return Wednesday, July 6th.

**Questions? Contact the Site Leader:**  
Marcela Sherman (309) 798-7333  
Rachel Sragg (309) 373-1081

**Stepping Up for Summer Learning is Monday, July 5th!**  
More than 800 kids from a dozen Duane County summer camps will gather at the Tavistock Center for a day of enrichment and fun activities.  
Make sure your child is coming to camp every day so he or she is able to attend all field trips!

**FRANCES WILLARD FIELD TRIP REMINDERS**

<b>WEEK 3</b> FRIDAY, JULY 1	<b>1st - 4th Grade</b> Camp Abe Lincoln	<b>5th - 8th Grade</b> White Water Junction Bring your towel and wear sunscreen!
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**SUMMER TO-DOS:**  
**FIGGE** On the Figge in July - Free admission!  
**ROCK ISLAND LIBRARY** Sign up and participate in the Summer Reading Program  
**NEST SAFE** Sign up and play what you can! - Free admission!

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Spring Forward staff communicated with families before, during and after camp to ensure all stayed informed of camp plans and activities. Each school had a weekly, site specific newsletter that went out via Remind (text service) that included information on academics, enrichment, field trips and other information. Site staff also checked in with families to report good news, check on absent campers and report any disciplinary issues.

# SUMMER POOL Party

Camp ended with a pool party for campers and families at Whitewater Junction. The party was a reward for campers who attended 80% of more camp days.





## Largest summer learning celebration in Iowa and Illinois

Spring Forward hosted Stepping up for Summer Learning at the TaxSlayer Center. More than 800 children from Spring Forward, Boys and Girls Club, Martin Luther King Center, Skip-A-Long, It's a Child's World and Two Rivers YMCA camps attended. The event, sponsored by the John Deere Foundation, is the single largest summer learning celebration in Iowa and Illinois. 30 community partners had activities for campers and 40 volunteers came out to help make it a truly amazing day.

**800**  
CHILDREN

**30**  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

**40**  
VOLUNTEERS

