

K-8 Spring Break Academy (March 31 - April 4)

Goal

The goal of the K-8 Spring Break Academy is to accelerate academic progress for qualifying students (according to ALC rules) and provide an engaging, educational experience during the school holiday.

Key features of the program

- The Academy will be offered at up to 8 sites across the district for a maximum of 210 students per site
- Each site will be staffed with an Academic Leader (\$2,500 stipend) and a Program Coordinator (Community Ed)
- Teachers will be paid flat stipends of \$2,000 for the week and their preparation time
- Each site will create its own academic plan based on student needs (T&L will recommend some activities)
- Programming will consist of 4 hours of academics and 2 hours of Community Education each day
- Class size will be capped at 15:1
- Breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided for all students
- Friday field trip will be offered as incentive for all students and coordinated by Community Ed - possible destinations: Science Museum of Minnesota, The Bakken, Kroening Interpretive Center, The Works, Mill City Museum, Walker Art Center, Childrens Museum, Underwater World, or The Minnesota Zoo

Proposed schedule for the week

Monday - 3/31	Tuesday - 4/1	Wednesday - 4/2	Thursday - 4/3	Friday - 4/4
Academic program (4 hours)	Academic program (4 hours)	Academic program (4 hours)	Academic program (4 hours)	Field trip (all day)
Community Ed (2 hours)	Community Ed (2 hours)	Community Ed (2 hours)	Community Ed (2 hours)	

District level responsibilities

- Provide funding for all aspects of the program, including salaries
- Organize transportation and food service; ensure on-call access to Safety and Security and access to nursing staff
- Make recommendations for academic strategies to be used in classrooms

Principal responsibilities

- Identifies an Academic Leader (licensed teacher or social worker) to coordinate on behalf of the site
- Recruits a minimum of 5 teachers and 15 students per teacher
- Is willing to lead staff in planning four days of academic programming based on student needs

School collaboration

- Principals of schools wishing to collaborate are jointly responsible for recruiting the Academic Leader, teachers, and students

Next steps

- Determine level of interest at your site and willingness to accept school responsibilities in the next few days
- District will identify final Spring Break Academy sites by 2/18

Academic strategy recommendations

	Literacy/ELA	Mathematics
Test-prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General test-taking strategies (e.g., practicing reasoning skills on multiple-choice items) • Students are coached through different portions of the online MCA-III Reading sampler with a focus on close reading, online tools – limited number of questions per day led by teacher (think-alouds, etc.) and student voices sharing strategies they are trying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 powerful words instructional strategies • Take online MCA Math sampler • Emphasize close reading strategies: Reading the problem for context, reading the problem to identify the question to be answered, reading to understand the math context. Writing a final statement answering the question
General academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily close reading connecting both fiction and informational texts (materials required) <i>can use</i> Grades 3-5: <i>Reading A-Z</i> Grades 6-8: <i>Texts and Lessons bundle (literature/nonfiction)</i> (approx. \$40 per teacher) • Pilot 5th grade science/ELA units (grade 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST Math (where available) • Math Navigator (grades 6-8) • Do the Math (where available 3-5) • Bar Modeling strategies • Context, Content, What is the question • Practice solving online problems on paper before entering an answer • Pre-Teaching of the next to last unit at each grade level, to make certain that this content is covered before the MCAs
Project-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space shuttle project ? • EiE or FOSS kits with associated science writing? • Lego Storytelling? • PBS Kids Design Squad? • Snap Circuit Kits • Other STEM projects 	
Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malleable intelligence lessons • Explicit teaching about stereotype threat • MCA goal-setting 	

Community Education programming

Two hours of programming will be provided Monday through Thursday. Community Education has agreed to arrange for programming at any site, even if there is no ongoing programming during the regular school year. Classes offered will be based on outside partners' availability and specialty.

Feb. 12	Teachers and grade levels identified
Feb. 13	Interested sites submit proposal to Associate
Feb. 18	Sites selected and notified
Feb. 19	List of eligible students sent to sites
Feb. 19	Pre-populated forms will be available to print
March 14	Cut off date for Registration forms
March 17	Submit student list to transportation
March 21	Instruction plans due to Academic Leader
March 26	Transportation send notifiers to sites
March 31	Day 1
April 1	Day 2
April 2	Day 3
April 3	Day 4
April 4	Day 5 - Field Trip



Spring Break Academy 2014

FAQ¹

How much Flex do we have in the schedule?

- Does Community Education have to be at the end, or possible switch up? (Possible hour at the start and then an hour at the end)
CE will be the last 2 hours of the program. Teachers will be prepping at this time and not responsible for the students. Once the Program Coordinator has been hired, the Academic Leader and Program Coordinator will work together to build the transition from teacher lead academics to CE lead enrichment.

Are the teachers able to prep the 2 hours community ed is with the students or will they be supervising students?

This time may be used to prep, but the classroom they are teaching in may be in use by the Community Ed staff.

What is the time commitment for teachers? (4 or 6 hours)

Teachers will be teaching 4 hours on Monday-Thursday and 6 hours on Friday.

Can teachers job share?

Yes, as long as same grade level and school.

Is the academic leader in lieu of an administrator on-site? Under the principal-level responsibilities it states that I identify the academic leader.

Yes, the principal will select an academic leader. At this point we are investigating if the principals are eligible for the stipend.

Are principals expected to be on duty this week as well?

No, the Extended Day Office will be staffed to handle any questions that arise with point people in other departments to reach out to as needed.

What will the daily attendance be?

The goal is to maintain at least 12 students per classroom. I would encourage teachers to enroll the students they know will make every intention of attending. Look at your population and you might base your registration on the current attendance rate.

Specifically, if students for a particular grade level are lower than what has been planned for- how will staff be adjusted?

The class with the smallest class size will be combined with another class.

¹ This is a working document that was created by a group of principals over the weekend. It is a combination of many emails. Thank you to all who have contributed to the conversation.

If classes are "closed" will staff be prorated accordingly, since this is a stipend?

Yes

Support staff? What are the parameters and pay for them? (stipend/hourly)

For every 50 students registered, 1 support staff will be allocated to the staff. The support staff will be needed to answer phones, transportation, translate if needed, breakfast and lunch duty, as well as provide classroom support. Still undecided on the hours that the staff will work each day as the budget is developed.

Beacons vs. Community Ed for enrichment: Can we create our own after-school program with Beacons?

Yes, this program will be a group effort.

Do we "have" to offer k-2 or focus on "tested" grades?

The focus has been adjusted to only students in grades 3-8.

Can we invite hard-working red zone students who would really benefit or is this a district-generated list? (Can the list be added to?)

The focus will start on the students scoring in the yellow and then move into the students scoring in the red. (to clarify for principal understanding- only students that qualify for ALC and summer school plus the students that are in the bubble that have been identified for the intervention of the short term strategies)

- Will nurses be on duty?

One nurse will be on call for all schools and HSAs will be placed at schools deemed necessary.

- What will our start and end times look like for the Spring Break Academy?

Transportation will determine the times once we have confirmed the schools and projected the student numbers for each site. It's currently looking like one tier will start at 8 am and the other at 9:15 am.

- Will specialists or counselors be hired to teach?

No, Community Ed will be handling the enrichment for the last two hours. The focus will be around tested areas and test taking skills.

- How much money for supplies?

Each child will generate \$2.00 for supplies. Extended Learning will allocate that money to each site at the close of registration.

- What will be the tech support?

Currently working with IT to determine what we may need. Please include your site specific IT needs in your proposal.

- Will there be a behavior plan?

Your current behavior plan would keep with the consistency of your site.

