



## Northwest R-I School District

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This summer, our school district is excited to offer **Summer Journey**, a **free** summer learning program for all students. Summer Journey is designed to be **fun, engaging, and meaningful**, giving students a positive and enriching summer experience.

Students will participate in **over 60 hours of learning** throughout the summer. This time allows students to review important skills they've already learned and build confidence as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Academic classes focus on reading, language arts, math, and science or social studies. These classes are **hands-on, interactive, and theme-based**, so learning feels active and enjoyable—not like a traditional school day. There is **no homework, no tests, and no grades**.

Summer Journey also includes enrichment **courses**, which give students opportunities to explore, create, and discover through fun, hands-on experiences. These courses may include activities such as building and launching rockets, cooking, performing skits, or participating in fitness and sports-based learning. Journey courses are designed to spark curiosity, teamwork, and creativity while keeping students excited about coming to school each day.

If you are the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2026, I strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your child in **Summer Journey**. We have noticed that when these young students meet their teachers, fellow students, and our staff during the summer, they are eager to return in the fall and find that "first day of school" experience to be a positive one. Our Kindergarten curriculum includes a week-long "Welcome to School" segment that helps students learn about their classroom and school, practice typical classroom routines, and participate in fun activities that celebrate starting school off right.

Finally, **Summer Journey** offers an enticing incentive program for students. Students will be eligible to receive **daily** rewards if they come to school, exhibit a positive attitude and behavior, and work to improve their achievement. At the end of the program, some lucky students will also win **Grand Prizes**, which will be awarded on the final day. And, as in past years, all our students who demonstrate outstanding attendance will be rewarded with **Attendance Recognition** gift cards, ranging from \$50 for "near perfect" attendance to \$100 for "perfect attendance."

Who should attend **Summer Journey**? Everyone. Simply put, it's good for kids. Look at the information enclosed. You'll be glad you did!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Kyle Gibbs**  
Superintendent

# Northwest R-I School District Summer Journey Course Offerings

All Academic Courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and/or Social Studies) are offered during morning sessions. All Journey Courses are offered during afternoon sessions. Students participate in Journey courses for blocks of time, enabling every student to participate in every Journey course.

## **Summer Journey Location(s):**

Brennan Woods Elementary  
Cedar Springs Elementary  
Maple Grove Elementary  
Murphy Elementary  
Northwest High School

## **Kindergarten (Students Entering K)**

### **My Town, Your Town, Our World!**

*In this course, young learners embark on an exploration of different types of communities—urban, suburban, and rural. Through interactive read-alouds, role-playing, and community-themed games, students discover the people who live, learn, and work in these diverse environments. Math activities include counting, drawing, and coloring shapes and numbers. In hands-on literacy and math centers, students use their imaginations to build model communities while discussing the various roles people play within them. The course emphasizes social skills cooperation, and the value of diverse community roles.*

### **On the Move!**

*How do your young explorers like to travel? In this transportation-themed course, kindergartners discover how people move around—from city streets to open waters. After a brief introduction and rest time, students dive into engaging read-alouds, purposeful play, and hands-on activities that spark curiosity and creativity. Outdoor activities keep the energy high before students explore theme-based centers, experiencing the excitement of transportation using all their senses.*

## **Primary (Students Entering 1st-3rd Grade)**

### **Journey Courses**

Abbracadara Days	Lights, Camera, Imagine	Lets Get Moving
Catch a Wave	Shake, Rattle, and Roll	The Science of Superpowers

## **Elementary (Students Entering 4th-5th Grade)**

### **Journey Courses**

Traveling Artist	Cosmic Coders	Oceanic Exploration
BrickLAB: Build a Better World	Simple Machines	Music to Our Ears

## **Intermediate (Students Entering 6th-8th and/or 9th Grade)**

### **Journey Courses**

3D Art Camp	Survivor Camp	Drone Designers: Exploring
BrickLAB: Genetics	Just Golf	STEAM Careers
Game Show!		

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is the Summer Journey program?**

The Northwest School District Summer Journey is an extended learning summer program operated by Northwest School District and Catapult Learning to provide a world-class educational experience to district students.

## **What does the program cost to parents?**

The programming is free to all students.

## **When will the program be held?**

The Northwest R-I School District Summer Journey operates from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:35 to 3:33 for elementary students, and 7:25 to 2:23 for middle school students.

*\*Dates may change based on the number of days missed due to inclement weather. Changes will be announced.*

## **Must my child be in attendance every hour of the program to receive credit for the Summer Journey program?**

No. We understand students may have vacations or camps planned. While prizes for good attendance are available to students, a child's occasional absence should not deter parents from enrolling their children in the program.

## **Will transportation be provided to and from the program?**

Yes, transportation will be provided for those student families who qualify for transportation during the regular school year. However, bus routes will be limited and may vary from routes during the regular school year. Transportation information will be sent to those families who require transportation as soon as the plan becomes available.

## **What will my child(ren) do each day?**

In the morning, Summer Journey students attend engaging academic classes where they may read interesting adventure stories, play language arts games, and/or use technology to solve math mysteries. A typical schedule would include four morning classes of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science or Social Studies.

After lunch, students will explore a variety of fun-filled courses that rotate for those enrolled in the program.

## **How does the incentive program work?**

Many students will win daily incentives for their efforts through a daily drawing, or some similar format established by the summer site. Your student is also eligible to receive one of the following incentives for their Summer Journey attendance:

- Perfect attendance = \$100 gift card
- Up to one day missed = \$75 gift card
- Up to two days missed = \$50 gift card

## **Will breakfast and lunch be served every day?**

Yes, through a special state grant, ALL students will receive a free breakfast and lunch.

## **How do I enroll my child for Summer Journey?**

Simply fill out the enrollment form found in the front pocket of this brochure and return it to your child's school.

Catapult Learning



## STUDENT INCENTIVES

### Attendance

Student incentives are dependent on actual full-day attendance in the Summer Journey program.

#### **\$100 Gift Card**

*Perfect Attendance*

#### **\$75 Gift Card**

*Up To One Day Missed*

#### **\$50 Gift Card**

*Over One Day, Up To Two Days Missed*

Gift cards can be used in the local stores or malls.

### Daily Incentives

Daily incentives will be awarded to students based on good attitude and achievement as determined by each site.

#### **Northwest R-I School District**

##### **Enrollment Information Enclosed**

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