August 2020 Newsletter

On fire with online learning!

Summer Success at NHR

Our six week summer session saw NHR continuing to use our Distance Learning Program with the addition of enrichment clubs for students. Club options included math, chess, creative writing, and science and nature. Students received “packets” at the start of the summer session to make sure they had the resources they needed to be able to make the most of summer learning. Packets included headphones, whiteboards, new books, workbooks, and pencils/crayons. We also helped families with technology by providing laptops and internet hotspot.

Of the students tested this summer, 98% of our students either stayed at the same or improved their independent reading levels since last fall. Our students did really well, despite the expected Covid-slide due to the pandemic. Distance learning attendance is almost 4% higher than regular programs also! We are so proud of our students’ hard work despite the challenges of distance learning. Thank you to everyone - especially our incredible staff and volunteers - who made summer learning a success!
Our youngest readers had a great summer experience too!

Summer tutoring continued in the same format as our spring Distance Learning, but our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students required a whole new model for their summer camp. Students were learning five days a week for five weeks, participating in activities as varied as scavenger hunts to letters of the day. Our fabulous Pre-K/K team developed a curriculum and planned meticulously to ensure that students would be successful in this virtual program. Thanks to generous grants from the Women’s Seamen’s Friend Society of Connecticut and the Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund, students received backpacks containing six brand new books, workbooks, pencils, and everything else they might need for camp.

Every Friday, Norwalk Aquarium joined the Zoom session to talk about the aquarium and about ocean-life providing the students with the fun enrichment aspects of camp that they always experience. We are so thankful to our staff at New Haven Reads whose dedication and commitment have made the online transition possible for our students!
It has been a summer of reading!

We have been distributing gently used and new books to families at some of the busiest meal distribution locations in New Haven every Friday since May! This program began because of the coronavirus pandemic and has ensured that 8,480 books have been distributed to New Haven households. Other books have been distributed through partnerships with LEAP and Common Ground.

We are so grateful for the partnership with Abrams Books, The Study at Yale, Read to Grow, New Haven Public Schools, and our incredible volunteers who made this such a success. And special thanks to the donors who made it possible for us to purchase thousands of new, diverse books to distribute! We look forward to continuing book distributions in the fall.

COVID-19 grants have made a difference.

NHR has received several generous grants from funders to help us pay for coronavirus-related expenses. We are grateful for this critical support for these unexpected costs related to technology for families, resource packets for students, and for books. Thank you to: Carolyn Foundation, Yale Community for New Haven Fund, and the Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund.
Calling all teachers!

We are still having our annual Teacher Open House this year! Please reserve your spot on Friday August 21 or Saturday, August 22 and follow our COVID-19 protocols for a safe experience.

Distance Learning by the Numbers

- **8,480** books handed out during summer book distributions
- **210** students enrolled in tutoring and clubs for **437** hours of programs.
- **18** students in the daily Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten program
- Summer distance learning average attendance is **3-4%** higher than our regular in-person programs.
- Thanks to our **4** interns from the First Niagara Foundation in partnership with KeyBank and Presidential Public Service Fellows from Yale University and the University of New Haven for their hard work this summer.

NHR Summer 2020 Lecture Series

Across the summer, New Haven Reads has invited speakers from a variety of disciplines, ranging from sociology and linguistics to architecture and early childhood education for a series of talks. The series brings a variety of perspectives and research on language, learning and literacy. There is only one lecture remaining on August 22. To watch all of the talks so far, visit our website.
Upcoming Events

NHR August Recess
No tutoring - August 15 to September 7, 2020

The Book Bank is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 4pm in the summer with added safety precautions. We will add Fridays in the fall.

Teacher Open House
August 21 and 22 - registration is required.

Online: Summer Lecture Series
Saturday August 18, 4PM.
Dr. Bryan Brown– Stanford University
Topic: “Race, Language, and Culture: Impact in urban classrooms”.

New Haven Reads
45 Bristol Street | New Haven | CT 06511
(203) 752-1923 | information@newhavenreads.org
www.newhavenreads.org