

Village Learning Place
LINK Summer & LINK Leaders Summer 2020

This spring, we redesigned our in-person summer programs for completely virtual delivery. In order to ensure equitable access to programming, we designed three learning pathways: Online interactive sessions; Pre-recorded static workshops; and a No-Tech Track (without worksheets). Our interactive online sessions were broken down into two age bands for LINK Summer (PreK-2nd and 3rd-6th) and one for LINK Leaders (7th-11th). Registered students were able to join in all three learning pathways this summer.

The VLP also served as a site for the Summer Meals Grab & Go service. In addition to food, we offered weekly supply packets to families in our program so that they had the materials needed for the activities each week. Each student received a supply box at the start of summer programming with materials (i.e., paper, markers, crayons, scissors, composition book, sketch pad, etc.); additional supply materials were made available weekly at Grab & Go Meal Service pick-up. Additionally, the VLP created at-home learning explorations, projects, and hands-on kits for program students, utilizing the library catalog for educational resources (such as blocks, puzzles, and games) in addition to our normal collection of books.

The VLP served 60 students in LINK Summer, our Pre-k–6th grade program, and 17 students in LINK Leaders Summer, our program for older youth. Though our total number of students was lower than our historical numbers served via in-person programming, LINK staff members were able to deliver high-quality instruction and develop meaningful relationships with their students.

How LINK Summer (PreK-6th grade) Achieved Its Goals and Objectives:

Enrollment and Attendance: 60

Performance Measure 1

75% of students will participate in 12 hours of direct instruction in character education in an effort to support positive increases in social skills, positive relationships and interactions, and reduce isolating behaviors.

Overall Outcome: 79% of LINK Summer students who elected to join the program online received 12 or more hours of direct instruction in character education.

Performance Measure 2

Families and the community will be engaged in our program's successes: 75% of families will volunteer, pick up a supply kit, participate in a program-sponsored family field trip, answer a check-in call, share a student-created artifact, and/or complete a survey.



Two of our LINK Summer students picking up their supply kits at the start of program.

Overall Outcome: 97% of families engaged in program offerings and 88% of families engaged two or more times.

Performance Measure 3

75% of students will receive 12 hours of direct instruction in math, literacy, and/or STEM in an effort to prevent the summer slide and to support school year learning.

Overall Outcome: 79% of LINK Summer students who elected to join the program online received 12 or more hours of direct instruction in math, literacy, and/or STEM.

How LINK Leaders Summer (7th-11th grade) Achieved Its Goals and Objectives:

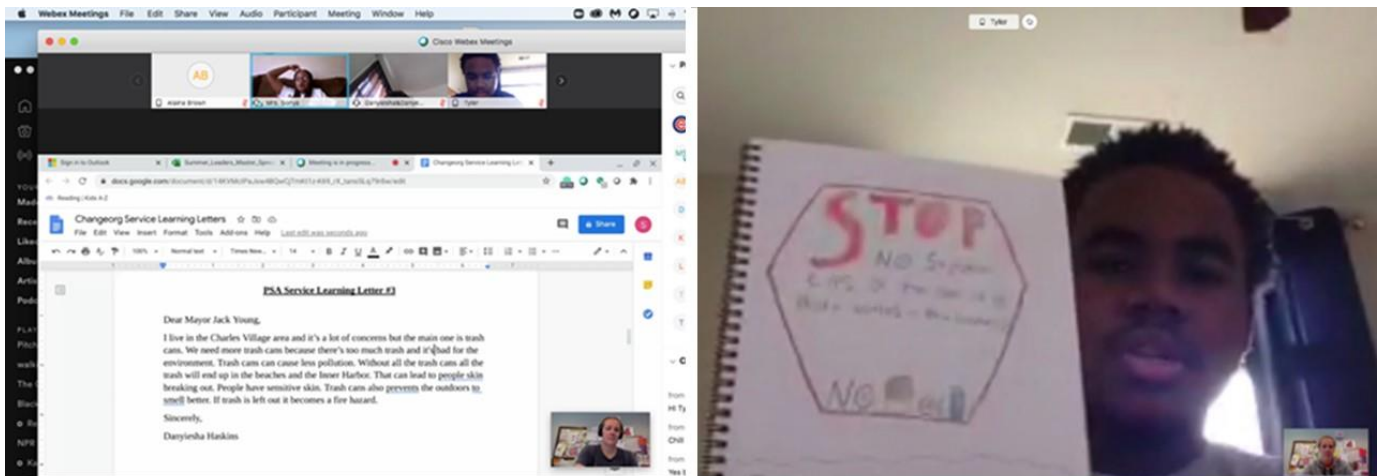
Enrollment and Attendance: 17

Performance Measure 1: 75% of LINK Leaders will attend 9 or more hours of career and college readiness programming to support their ability to identify opportunity, and to be more confident in an array of college and career choices.

Overall Outcome: 66% (8/12 students) of LINK Leaders students who joined us online completed 9 or more hours of Career and College Readiness programming.

Performance Measure 2: Participants in the program will show improved capacity to take initiative, plan projects and complete assignments in school and out: 75% of students will design and execute a service learning project that meets an identified community need.

Overall Outcome: 83% of students who joined the program online designed and executed a service learning project that met an identified community need.



Two images from LINK Leaders Summer during the online service-learning session. Our Leaders were committed to reducing litter in the neighborhood. They wrote letters to City leaders and created a PSA video.

Summer Highlights & Successes

- Tommie, a third grader who is typically shy, excitedly led his online cohort in constructing a Lego car during a summer enrichment experience.
- In partnership with other youth-serving organizations, our staff produced at-home activity and supply kits that were distributed weekly at the following sites for multiple weeks this summer:
 - Nate Tatum Center: 10 each week x 8 weeks (5 Pre-K–2nd & 5 3rd–6th grade)
 - 29th Street Center: 15 each week x 8 weeks (5 Pre-K–2nd & 10 3rd–6th grade)
 - Cecil Kirk Rec Center: 15 each week x 8 weeks (10 Pre-K–2nd & 5 3rd–6th grade)
 - Greenmount Rec Center: 45 kits each week x 8 weeks (20 Pre-K–2nd grade & 23 3rd–6th grade).
- One program parent, during a conversation with a LINK teacher, described the VLP as “the little engine that could,” noting the organization’s commitment to her child as well as the other program participants.
- Ms. Kirsten, a LINK teacher, called a family that was initially reluctant to join live virtual summer programming. She encouraged the family to give the virtual program a try. They ended up attending and participating, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. By the end of the summer, they had been highly engaged in the program throughout.
- On the first day of school this year (2020-2021), Trayon made an omelet for breakfast and posted it to his vlog. He gave the VLP a shoutout in his video because he learned how to make omelets in the LINK Leaders Summer cooking enrichment class.

