

FHPS Video Transcript, Forest Hills Forecast, June 19, 2020

Welcome Forest Hills families and staff members to the fifth edition of the Forest Hills Forecast. Thanks for tuning in. Today, I want to share with you some age-specific exceptional opportunities for kids over the summer, a variety of options, and all of them listed on our website, but I want to highlight a few of them today.

Before I do, I'd like to share with you one additional candid conversation. This is a conversation I've had with many parents, parents who are worried about as we came through the spring, what we call learning loss with students and gaps that are created. I want to assure you that this is exactly what our teachers excel in—closing learning gaps in students. And as we get back to the school in the fall in classrooms, which is our intent and our goal, teachers will assess all students and they'll find out if there's a few areas that they're shaky on or we need to make up some ground. Our teachers are experts. They're highly skilled, and this is what they do year in and year out, day in and day out, and we can close those gaps quickly. So I don't want you to be overly concerned about that particular issue. This is again something that our teachers excel in and we are so very grateful for them.

Now, turning onto summer and things that are happening this summer. I want to talk about the Summer Brain Gain, not the brain drain, but the Brain Gain and some awesome opportunities that we have with some fantastic partners all throughout Kent County. And I also want to talk with you about the Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program or GRASP, and some really cool opportunities there. Then finally, just some things for you to do as a family, you can do together as well.

So, the Summer Brain Gain. We have partnered with Kent Intermediate School District and many different entities and organizations throughout Kent County to offer some wonderful opportunities that are age-specific for students and all these things are available on our website. And so many of them will provide ways to keep kids engaged, academically, engaged socially, and so many of these things are great fun too as well in

the summer. Just a few examples for any students in kindergarten through grade 2: Around the World in 80 Days, Amazing Animals, Mindfulness, a variety of things. These are just a few examples of the things that are offered. Grades 3 through 5: Introduction to the Ukulele, (I wouldn't know where to begin, but third-graders can do that), Game Design, Digital Storytelling. Grade 6 through 8, a few examples, again, there are so many more on the website: Myth Madness, Basic Baking, Mysteries Around the World, and Michigan Plant Identification. I could use that whenever I'm getting into poison ivy, that's for sure. And for grades 9 through 12: Graphic Design, SAT Prep, The Secrets of Pascal's Triangle, and so many grade levels, Computer Coding, if you've got kids who are interested in coding, what a great skill. These Brain Gain classes, and so many more, again are available on our website, and we've linked that to the messenger message that we send out with this Forecast to you.

I'd like to talk specifically about the Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program or GRASP. This is a great program. For students K through 3, they can actually receive mail to them...learning packets in a variety of different content areas and subjects kids can work on them, fill them out, send them back, and actually receive feedback, back in that way. Grades 4 through 8 can choose the paper-pencil packet or they could choose an online option. But again, if this is something where you're thinking, "Geez, I think my particular son or daughter needs a little bit more help with, I don't know, fractions or something in reading or language arts," we've got great opportunities here to provide feedback to your child from a certified educator. So check out GRASP, again that is on our website. And a registration deadline on this one and a few of these other wonderful classes is near the end of the month here, June 30th. So take a look and be mindful of those registration deadlines.

And finally, just some community and family activities if you need something to do on a rainy day. We've had wonderful weather here, but we could get some rainy weather or something to do on a hot summer afternoon. School News Network, one of our partners, Education Everywhere partners have teamed up with some amazing activities and resources. You can visit the Grand Fish Exhibit and conduct an engineering

experiment or create a variety of artistic posters. Our partners that we have are the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, the Kent District Library, the Van Andel Institute, John Ball Zoo, and Frederik Meijer Gardens, wonderful organizations and entities and great partners and wonderful things for you to do with your son or daughter and entire family.

And there's never a bad time to pick up a book. I'm here in the Meadow Brook media center, "If You had a Jet Pack," if I had a jet pack, where would I go? "Parker Looks Up," there's so many outstanding books. Our Kent District Library is open, we have our Kids Read Now books that are coming to homes, so there's never a bad time to have your nose in a book and encourage that, and again, kids will follow what they see adults doing. So parents, moms and dads, grandparents, pick up a book and kids will see that model, and they'll follow that activity as well.

And I'm so happy to see people getting outside. It's always a wonderful time to get outside and unstructured play or even our kids that are coming back to our school sites to engage in just some conditioning and some exercise. And I've seen that done in such a responsible healthy way, and I'm very appreciative of that.

Keep doing the great things we're doing to keep this virus at bay. All those things in the game plan that got us this far, keep those things up. And I hope you have a wonderful summer. And can check out some of these activities on our website.

Thanks. Take care. Have a great weekend.