



STEAM Academy of Umatilla

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This summer, our Summer Learning Program provided **377 students** with six weeks of meaningful learning opportunities, enrichment, and community experiences. Students were served across **two sites**, allowing us to provide a strong balance of academic instruction, hands-on learning, and youth development. A key focus of the program was maintaining academic momentum. Students received **more than 60 minutes of reading and math instruction every day**, while also participating in enrichment activities, competitions, field trips, and community-based learning experiences.

One of the highlights of the summer was hosting a **binational teacher from Mexico**. Students had the opportunity to learn about Mexican culture, language, and perspectives while strengthening their understanding of the connections between our communities. This experience added an important cultural component to our summer programming and created opportunities for meaningful student engagement.

Community partnerships were also a tremendous part of our success. We are grateful to the **Umatilla Public Library**, which hosted our students for engaging **OMSI presentations**, as well as **Umatilla Parks and Recreation**, **the Umatilla Police Department**, **the Umatilla Fire Department**, and **CCS** for providing services, support, and learning opportunities for our students. Students also participated in several field trips that extended learning beyond the classroom and allowed them to experience their community in new ways.

We also made time to celebrate our students and build community. More than **250 students and family members attended our summer pool party**. A special thank-you goes to the **Umatilla PTO for sponsoring this event** and helping us create such a fun opportunity for students, families, and staff to come together.

Students participated in a variety of engaging enrichment activities, including a **World Cup bracket competition**, which brought excitement, teamwork, and friendly competition into the program. These experiences reinforced the importance of collaboration, communication, and belonging while giving students opportunities to develop skills beyond traditional academics.

We were also pleased to welcome the **Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for an on-site visit**. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase our program, classrooms, instructional practices, and student experiences. We received **very positive feedback from ODE**, affirming the quality of the work being done by our staff and the impact of our summer learning model.

Additionally, we had students earn 20 credits toward graduation, including **5 students** who completed graduation requirements!!

Thank you to our staff, families, community partners, PTO, and everyone who contributed to making this summer a success. Together, we created a summer program that was not only focused on preventing learning loss, but on helping students **learn, belong, and have fun**.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Williams