

Education Update

Summer School Edition

Watertown Unified School District

Summer 2008

The Modern Look of Summer School

Summer School Today

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Twenty years ago, attending Summer School was only meant for those needing to make up previously failed classes in order to advance to the next grade level or for graduation. Today, kids are lining the halls, choosing to participate in exciting electives like "Dinosaur Dig", "Megabytes" and "American Girls".

These Kids are really Cookin'

2

These classes offer an "out of the box" educational opportunity that encourages creative thinking through imagination and hands-on experience. Kids learn everyday skills that keep them excited about learning and going to school.

Historic Creations

3

Preparation classes such as "Looking Ahead to First Grade" and credit opportunities for middle and high school students are also available.

"ACTING" Out at Summer School

4

According to the on-site Summer School administrator Andy Bare, 1318 students in Pre-K through grade twelve attended classes offered by the Watertown Unified School District this summer.

"Summer School is a great opportunity for kids to experience different classes and the social aspect is great for kids as they meet new friends" says Mr. Bare.

Down on the Farm

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The success of Summer School is due in large part to our dedicated staff made up of local educators from both public and parochial schools, as well as recent college graduates. Early preparation work done by Summer School Coordinator Mike Daniels and Kay Peirick, of Lincoln School, begins in January when they begin lining up classes, hiring staff, setting class schedules, and registering students.

The amount of hard work and preparation is well worth the effort when seeing students benefit from the experiences offered in each class.



"Monster Creations" from Wiggles Squiggles & Giggles

These Kids are Really Cooking

Cooking class encourages students to try new and unfamiliar foods

Cooking instructor Cynthia Weisbecker has taken her students to new and exciting destinations through the making of international culinary delights this year at Summer School.

According to Weisbecker, making things like Welsh Pasties not only teaches students to cook but to appreciate the history behind old world recipes.

The Welsh pasties for example are a savory turnover carried by Welsh miners into the mine everyday for lunch. The filling of this turnover was always changing because it was made with whatever was left over from the previous night's dinner. The filling usually consisted of some type of meat, potato, onion and a root vegetable such as carrots.

The students enjoyed making the recipe (See recipe below) and then taking the opportunity to taste the fruit of their labor.

At right, student Joe Scheiber and teacher Larry Isaacs work with dough to make the turnovers.



Welsh Pasties

Preheat Oven to 350 Degrees

Basic Savory Pie Dough

2 Cups Flour, sifted

1/4 tsp Salt

1 TBS Herbs (Chives, Parsley, Garlic)

2/3 Cup Shortening

1/3 Cup Ice Water

Filling

1 Cup Ground Turkey

3 Potatoes (diced small)

1/2 Cup Onions

2 Carrots (diced small)

1tsp Garlic

1/8 tsp each Salt, Pepper & Paprika

Instructions

Combine dry ingredients, cut shortening into flour, add ice water forming a ball.

Refrigerate 15 minutes. Roll on cutting board, use saucer as pattern to cut dough. Fill one side of circle and fold, using fork dipped in egg to close.

Change and rotate pasties until golden.

Visit from three-day old goats makes kids say "CHEESE"

Summer School became a real hands-on experience for students as Dodge County Dairy and Livestock Summer Agent Amanda Messer paid a visit to Crystal Soldner's class "Looking Ahead to First Grade".

Messer, a UW Platteville graduate in Animal Science currently works at the G & G Double Dairies in Fox Lake. The children enjoyed the visit

and welcomed three day old goats from the dairy.

The children learned about farms and were allowed to pet and feed the goats a small bottle of milk. Students from each class shared their favorite name for each goat. One will be chosen for each goat from the suggestions.

Messer also brought goat's milk and other ingredients to teach

the students how to make a fast Mozzarella cheese.

Due to the anticipation and the time frame of the class, she allowed the students to taste the cheese at the curd stage with some crackers. They loved it!



Historic Creations

Kids Create History with Dinosaur Eggs

Jurassic Park has nothing on this interactive Summer School class at Watertown High School. The age of the dinosaurs comes to life as children in the class “Dinosaur Dig” learn to create their very own fossilized dinosaur eggs.

The simple recipe creates a rock like shell over a plastic toy dinosaur with a mixture of flour, sand, dirt, salt and water and is allowed to dry for a few days. The students then hunt the eggs and crack them open with a hammer revealing the baby dinosaur inside.

The kids also worked with many other dinosaur projects including making a paper bag stuffed triceratops and clay dinosaur pictures along with many other crafts.

Teacher Lisa Godfroy who has been teaching the class for the past three years says that there are always a lot of students



who want to take the class. Kids love learning about dinosaurs and this class will definitely be around for years to come.

Pictured Above, students Ryan Hogquist and Mason Van Ert admire their fossilized egg creations.



Betsy Ross shares the history of the Flag and the five pointed star

At left, the entire “Books are Fun” class poses with Betsy Ross and her Flag while displaying proudly their own five pointed stars. Included in the picture is Ross, Instructor Kate LaCombe, Nathan Burrington, Brian Frank, Anne Fuentes, Faith Klein, Leslie Maldonado, Emily Muhle, Zachary Schmidt, Patience Williams, Anthony Kramer and Jaedan Westenberg

Children in the “Books are Fun” summer school class at Webster School enjoyed a visit from a great American Icon.

The children were all smiles as Betsy Ross shared her story with a special emphasis on the five pointed star that still appears today on every American flag.

She explained that the five pointed star was originally questioned by some as too unfamiliar

and would be too hard for seamstresses to make. At a special meeting, to silence the protests; she folded a piece of paper, made a single scissor snip, and revealed a perfect five-pointed star. This proved to all that a five pointed star would be the perfect addition to the American Flag. The children then worked together to create their own one-snip five pointed star.

In celebration of the Fourth of July holiday,

teacher Kate LaCombe said that the entire week was dedicated to patriotic books, including The Statue of Liberty by Lucille Recht Penner; The Pledge of Allegiance by Scholastic; and God Bless America by Irving Berlin. The class also sang as they read the scholastic book “America the Beautiful”.

Summer School had everyone in this class seeing stars this year!

Acting Out at Summer School

Drama Class offers opportunities for student expression

Students come to drama class for many reasons. Many have little or no acting experience and are curious as to what the class has to offer. Others are veteran actors and actresses who want to immerse themselves in the world of theater. Whatever their reason may be, students actively participate in many drama activities such as theater games, voice and movement. One student said the class should be called "Drama and Action" because there is a lot of action happening in the class! According

to instructor Stacey Wink, teamwork and building self esteem is our main objective. We begin each session with a group activity to build camaraderie. Each class chooses a team name and develops a team cheer.

"Students become actively involved in all aspects of drama through fun and exciting ways while learning lessons and building friendships along the way."

Students in the Drama and Acting class experience the excitement of theater through many engaging activities such as mime, improvisation, role playing, scene development, stage makeup, and scenery.



Students decide on a play to develop and perform for a live summer school audience.

Pictured above are Drama and Acting students learning some choreography from Ryan Moldehauer, a WHS graduate.

"Students become actively involved in all aspects of drama through fun and exciting ways..."

Stacey Wink

Down on the Farm

Students enjoy a little "horsing" around

Kids in Joanne Neumann's Pre-Kindergarten class got an extra special surprise during Show and Tell. The class had been studying farm animals and classmate Mitchell Barry brought in four horses from his farm for the kids to see. The four horses arrived in style in a four stall trailer. The Children had the opportunity to feed the horses carrots and pet them. Horsing around had never been so much fun...

At left, Cain slowly nibbles on a carrot offered by summer school student John Vesper.



Enjoy Your Summer!

Watch for the next issue of the Education Update where we welcome new staff and honor staff members for 25 years of service to the WUSD.

