

Seeking Out Summer Opportunities for your Middle School Child

*A note: as COVID continues to disrupt events & programs, the landscape of options available this summer will likely shift. It is important to stay up to date with specific information directly from programs about how their summer offerings are impacted.

General Tips:

- As the weather gets nicer, try to implement at least **one day a week** free of screens. Brainstorm a list of activities to participate in at the beginning of the summer for those screen-free days!
- Talk with your child about **their interests** to help guide your search for summer programs. Make sure you are seeking out programs that align with what your child likes to do.
- Check with your child's **guidance counselors** about summer programs. With students not physically in the school building, you may be missing out on valuable opportunities available to students in your area, and guidance counselors are often clued into these opportunities.
- Though it can be difficult to continue academic coursework over the summer, encourage your child to **read daily**, even beyond and assigned summer reading. Try coming up with a goal for the number of books to read over the summer and give them something to aspire to!
- **Free time** over the summer can often prove critical to helping children develop independence heading into high school. Give your child some flexibility in structuring their summer- as they are getting older, they need to learn how to use free time effectively.

Lists of Boston-area and Massachusetts summer programs

Check out the lists below for guidance about summer opportunities available to middle school students. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but the resources below are great starting points for a variety of programs.

- Local **Boys & Girls Clubs** often offer a variety of programs that include sports, STEM subjects and arts & crafts at an affordable price. Find your local club online to see their summer offerings.
- Check with your **local library** to see what they are offering for summer programs. Sometimes they offer summer reading challenges, but other times they might have free in-person learning experiences for students.
- For students in the Boston area who are interested in **STEM subjects**, there is a comprehensive list of summer programs at a variety of costs here: <https://oeop.mit.edu/resources/boston-area-summer-programs-middle-high-school-students>
- For more **traditional camp** experiences, there is a list of camps available at a variety of price points across the state: <https://www.bostoncentral.com/boston-summer-camps-massachusetts>
- Continue the process of **virtual learning** over the summer with these resources that provide camp-like experiences for students from home: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/15-online-camps-fill-kids-summer-with-learning-adventures>