



Horizons at Warner

Inspiring Minds • Building Community • Transforming Lives





“At Horizons, I’ve seen the twinkle in the eyes of a young boy who has suddenly come to understand the number line during a math lesson. I’ve seen middle school students crave hours alone with a book because Horizons is an escape into a world they’ve come to love—one that’s full of people that support and encourage them to be their best self.”

*Mary Kokinda,
Horizons Lead Teacher*

Did you know?

- Low-income students lose more than two months in reading achievement in the summer, while their middle-class peers make slight gains.
- Summer learning loss contributes to the national achievement gap, putting low-income students as much as three years behind by the fifth grade.
- Students who are three grades behind by fifth grade are six times more likely to drop out of high school and have a 51% chance of being unemployed.

What is Horizons?

Horizons at Warner offers low-income students, from kindergarten to eighth grade in the Rochester City School District, a six-week, full-day summer enrichment program on the University of Rochester’s River Campus. Horizons at Warner—which combines academic, social, cultural, wellness, and recreational activities to engage, stimulate, and challenge urban children to learn and grow, with special attention on developing literacy and math skills—engages students in meaningful and authentic learning experiences outside the traditional classroom. Our goals are to:

- Prevent summer decline in students’ school performance.
- Improve students’ school attendance.
- Improve children’s social and interpersonal skills.
- Provide a safe summer experience.
- Build self-esteem, resourcefulness, and self-advocacy.
- Raise children’s and parents’ educational expectations and aspirations.
- Encourage parents to become involved in their children’s education and activities.



Horizons at Warner

Warner School Partnership Highlights:

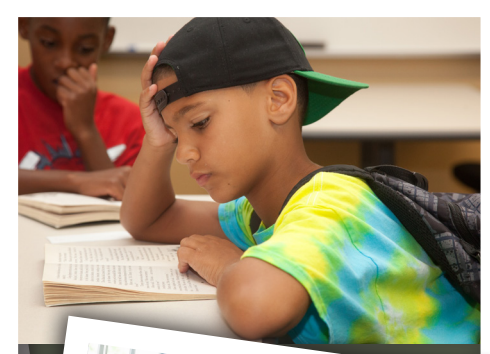
- Creates a deep and abiding partnership with the public school system and the community
- Enhances the quality of University students' experiences by serving as a demonstration site in the preparation of teachers
- Allows University faculty and their students to work side by side as educators
- Promotes research-based innovations for education
- Serves as a site for teachers and graduate students to explore innovative teaching methods

Program Features:

- Two certified teachers and a teacher's assistant for every 15 students
- Every student learns to swim
- Motivating and engaging reading and math lessons every day
- Multi-age learning groups
- All students take weekly educational field trips that connect to the program's new theme every summer
- Nutritious lunch and healthy snacks served daily
- Opportunities for sustained studies in such fields as optics, chemistry, rocketry, papermaking, LEGO® Robotics, game programming, film-making, and astrophysics
- Parents as Learning Partners program
- A Leadership Academy that prepares middle school students for leadership roles and transition to high school

Strategic Plan:

- Maintain a high return rate for our 135 students
- Provide a consistent high-quality summer program where students return every year from kindergarten through eighth grade
- Develop stronger partnerships with the schools and families we serve
- Continue to network with community organizations for supporting services for Horizons students and their families
- Increase academic achievement and school year attendance of our Horizons students
- Increase parent participation and outreach to families





Our third- to eighth-grade students have gained an average of one to three months in math and reading skills each summer.

Numerous students have passed the deep-end swim test.

Each summer our kindergarten through second grade students have gained an average of two to five months in oral reading fluency.

We have grown from 30 students in our first summer to serving 135 students.

Horizons at Warner has partnered with community organizations for year-round tutoring.

The average rate of students returning to Horizons at Warner each summer is over 90%.

Each summer our students read a total of over 500 books.

Our average daily attendance is over 90%.

Community members, University professors, and students volunteer their time.

Impact Since 2010!

Horizons at Warner is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that depends on generous support from individuals, organizations, and foundations, including Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, United Way of Greater Rochester, Rochester Area Community Foundation, City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth, Joan & Harold Feinbloom Supporting Foundation, Rochester City School District, Coca Cola Corporation, Horizons National, Foodlink, Wegmans, and Tops. We thank all those who have invested in our summer programming!

Lynn Gatto

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Dean of the Warner School

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