SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM WEEK 1 RECAP

Building Community, Creativity & Confidence

Dear Families, we had a great first week of our Summer Bridge Program! Students settled into ABC Community Hub, got to know one another, and jumped into activities connected to wellness, leadership, entrepreneurship, college/career pathways, and hands-on learning.

🏠 WELCOME TO ABC COMMUNITY HUB

Students spent the first day learning the space and building community. We opened with a cookout icebreaker, and after some initial shyness, students started sharing and connecting.

🎨 MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH ART

With Emotions in Motion, students used art to discuss mental health, the transition into high school, and the things that matter most to them.

💡 YOUTHBIZ: YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

YouthBiz introduced students to entrepreneurship. Over the next few weeks, they will develop business ideas, plans, and proposals rooted in their interests.
Learn more: yacenter.org/youthbiz

🎓 P-TECH SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Brown, a current APS educator who works with students in the P-TECH program, spoke with youth about P-TECH: a collaboration between Aurora Public Schools (APS) and Community College of Aurora (CCA). Through this pathway, students can graduate with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate degree.

Learn more: aurorak12.org/P-TECH

🌱 COMMUNITY GARDEN LEARNING

Students helped plant fruits, vegetables, and herbs in our community garden while learning about horticulture, sustainability, food deserts, and the importance of growing some of our own food.

🐴 WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT: ADAMS FAMILY RANCH

At Adams Family Ranch, students were introduced to the Western lifestyle by a Hall of Fame Cowboy and World Champion Bull Rider, learned how to saddle, mount, and ride a horse, and experienced nature-based mental wellness activities.

WEEK 1 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

YouthBiz

Community Garden

Adams Family Ranch

⭐ WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING

Trying new activities • Opening up to peers • Expressing themselves through art • Beginning entrepreneurship • Exploring college/career pathways • Showing curiosity at the ranch and in the garden

➡️ LOOKING AHEAD

Next week, students will keep building on this foundation with more wellness, entrepreneurship, a chess activation, and an HS 101 spotlight with current high school students. **More photos:** View Week 1 album

Warmly, The DBOA Program Team