



# Connect Kids

Educating, Enriching, and Empowering Hartford's Youth Since 1978

## AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

### BACK TO SCHOOL

Exciting news! The first day of the 2023-2024 school year for Hartford Public Schools is on August 29th, 2023.



**BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION**  
 Tuesday, August 15 10AM - 1PM  
 XL CENTER | 1 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, HARTFORD

Bring the kids!  
 Free Backpacks & School Supplies!  
**Food!**  
 Activities for all ages!

This public event is being photographed / videotaped. If you do not want to be photographed, please inform event staff.

Mark your calendars for Hartford Public Schools Annual Back-to-School Celebration! Tuesday, August 15, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the XL Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Hartford, CT. Activities for all ages! Food, backpacks and supplies are first-come-first-served; while supplies last!

The Back to School Fairs will be hosted by the following schools on August 28th, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. : MD FOX, Naylor, & West Middle



## CTKIDS SUMMER RECAP

### CORE CLASSES

Through the Culture & Legacy Theme students had the opportunity to explore their own identities and learn from one another, fostering a greater appreciation for diversity and building a strong foundation for personal growth and achievement. Our core classes for the summer were curated into four sections: culture & legacy, mind & soul, body & health, and food & nutrition. Over the duration of the summer, the students learned about genealogy, the importance of knowing their family history, origin, and culture where possible. Understanding self-care, ways to heal, and build healthy mental habits, such as yoga, TAP therapy, pour painting, and other creative outlets to express ourselves, strengthen the mind, and feed the soul. Explored why investing in our physical well-being is so important and how it can positively impact every aspect of our lives. Understanding the nutritional value of different foods, we can create balanced meals that reflect our values and highlight foods from our ancestors.



### BOOK CLUB

"Hello, Universe" tells the tale of a shy Filipino boy named Virgil who wants to meet a deaf girl named Valencia because he has a crush on her. Not knowing what to do, he consults twelve-year-old psychic Kaori to help with his dilemma. During this adventure that the children share, the novel explores the themes of cosmic intervention, communication problems, and what it means to be a hero. In this inclusive book club, we delved into important topics such as race, culture, identity, gender, disabilities, and bullying. By reading together, discussing these themes, and including hands-on activities the students gained a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences that people from all over the world have encountered while living in America.



### FIELD TRIPS

The students embarked on an enriching educational journey exploring various cultural and recreational sites in Connecticut. They had the opportunity to visit Pope Park Recreational Pool and Center, Windsor Historical Society, the Connecticut Science Center, Bushnell Park, and Connecticut Old State House. These excursions provided them with valuable insights into history, science, arts, and culture while fostering a sense of curiosity and appreciation for their surroundings.





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### COUNSELORS IN TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM RECAP

#### CONNECTIKIDS FEATURES



We are delighted to announce that our Program Assistant, Dasia Parker, has been honored and recognized by our valued partner site at the Boys & Girls Club. Dasia has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to her role and shown immense love and kindness towards the 5th Graders she works with. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dasia for this well-deserved acknowledgment. We consider ourselves fortunate to have her as part of our team!

#### CORE CLASSES



The ConnectiKids CIT programs offer opportunities to work with younger campers as leaders or mentors, a perfect fit for young people who love caring for kids or are interested in learning more about working in education. We provided the CITS with valuable professional development opportunities that they can carry with them as they embark on their college journey or pursue future career opportunities. They strengthened their resumes, cover letters, and interview skills, learned how to manage time and work commitments and practiced their leadership skills, among other activities, including guest speakers and college tours.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

ConnectiKids had the privilege of hosting three exceptional individuals for a speaking engagement with our CITs. Engaging conversations emerged around diverse subjects including college-to-career pathways, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and higher education. Our speakers provided valuable insights and inspired students with their success stories in relevant fields. This exposure not only allows students to learn from individuals that are in their field of interest but also introduces them to various resources that can aid their academic and professional growth.



#### FIELD TRIPS

Our CITs had the opportunity to delve into the vibrant landscapes of the local colleges and universities in Connecticut. This experience provided students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with a wide range of educational opportunities. While allowing students to gain valuable exposure to different options, the CIT Program facilitated a well-informed decision-making process regarding their future educational endeavors, should they decide to pursue them.



#### Contact us

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# 2023 CTKIDS CULTURE & LEGACY SUMMER PROGRAM

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