



Classroom inc

2010

# SummerTimes

## CLASSROOM, INC.'S 2009 SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS MOVE UP

NEW YORK CITY • CHICAGO • NEWARK • BALTIMORE • PHILADELPHIA

**E**milio from the Bronx is just one of 4,000 Classroom, Inc. middle and high-school students who got promoted to a higher grade or earned credits this past summer. In five major urban centers, kids who were placed in responsible decision-making roles in our workplace simulations made significant academic gains in English/Language Arts and math.

**NEWARK** For the second year in a row, Newark Public Schools chose Classroom, Inc. for its middle-school summer program. This year Newark also used our innovative curriculum to prepare incoming ninth graders for high school.

We have so far helped over 3,000 Newark students to improve the literacy and math skills that are essential to their future success.

Teachers from Newark sent Classroom, Inc. some of the activities they created to use along with our program. In turn, we shared these "bright ideas" with all summer school teachers using our materials. Here's one from team teachers at Central High in Newark:







Our students created a new studio for *The Sports Network*. Using the skills they gained in the simulation and extension activities, they sketched the design on drawing paper and transferred it to graph paper in order to keep the proportions correct. The students really responded to this hands-on learning experience.

—Mr. Thomas and Mr. Thomason



*Eighth-grade students write a memo to the president of The Sports Network, recommending a new show to air on the TSN kids' channel.*

**BALTIMORE** Last spring, Classroom, Inc. piloted our program in an alternative school, the Excel Academy at Francis Wood High School, where students lacking the credits needed to graduate are given a chance to catch up. Because of the success of that initiative, we expanded the pilot to three other Baltimore middle and high schools.

I led my class in a pretty ambitious extension of *The Kalliope Performing Arts Center*. They created their own performing arts festival, incorporating singing, acting, and even two improvisation games from *Break a Leg*, one of the nonfiction books from KPAC's nonfiction library.

—Ms. Carmella Antonino,  
Excel Academy

“I learned that I can do whatever I want if I put my head into it, and I really am smarter than I think I am. This program really helped me a lot and I am thankful for this!!!!!!!!!!”

—7th grader, Thomas Jefferson Elementary and Middle School

“I find the program well aligned to meet the standards of state testing.”

—7th grade teacher, Patapsco Elementary/ Middle School

**PHILADELPHIA** Classroom, Inc. was delighted to partner with the Philadelphia School District this past summer. Our curriculum was chosen for use in a U.S. Department of Labor-funded Bridge to High School program that provided literacy and math intervention to middle school and early high school students.

Teachers and administrators at the three Bridge program schools turned out impressive data on the **number of high school students who earned credits by using CI**. The outcomes for the summer 2009 CI experience compared very favorably with credit outcomes for programs they had previously used.

“Usually when I ask a student to write a few paragraphs on a particular topic I get a lot of excuses and reasons why they don’t want to do it. However, with the writing prompts throughout the episodes, I see students writing meaningful text with details to support their point of view.”

—9th grade teacher at Vaux High School

School	Number of students who earned credits using CI	Total number of credits earned using CI	% of students who earned credits using CI	Avg. % of students earning credits from other programs
John Bartram High School	14	7 (Elective—half credits)	100%	75%
Thomas Fitzsimons	17	17 (Humanities)	100%	30%
University City High School	65	63 (Math)	97%	80%






We had our summer school students “go green.” *The Green Mountain Paper Company* program provided an ideal context for fostering environmental education. Throughout the summer, students created a weekly newsletter that included articles and editorials with an environmental theme. One of their goals was to urge the high school to begin a recycling club to campaign for environmentally positive actions at Bartram High.

—Ms. Humphries and Ms. Foster,  
Bartram High

**NEW YORK CITY** For high school students like Emilio from the Bronx, the summer school stakes are particularly high. They need to succeed to graduate. Using Classroom, Inc. this summer, students who were behind jumped back on track toward getting their diplomas. For example, 45 students at Transit Tech High School in Brooklyn earned math and English credits this summer by using *The Sports Network*. Some used Web presentation tools to complete exciting multi-media projects about sports figures who have broken color barriers in the U.S. They then created blogs to exchange opinions on the subject.

“[From using Classroom, Inc.], I learned that I can make better choices than I normally do, and that helps me in go forward in life.”  
 —8th grader, I.S. 292, Brooklyn

At Victory Collegiate High school in Brooklyn, the summer-school supervisor remarked that his most unmotivated students were so engaged with the program that their attendance was exemplary.

And Classroom, Inc. served an estimated 535 students in 30 middle-school classes who needed to pass the NY State ELA and math exams. Our standards-aligned and engaging program enabled students to stay focused. The overwhelming majority of them succeeded on the NY State exams and progressed to the next grade, more confident than when they entered summer school.



*In New York City, two bankers are born.*

**CHICAGO** Over 700 miles away from New York City, students in 26 schools spread across metropolitan Chicago also got down to business in roles that helped keep their workplaces humming. They were lawyers, medical clinicians, general managers, editors-in-chief, and bank tellers.

Last summer was the second consecutive year in which we partnered with Keep Kids Learning, a successful summer enrichment program designed to stem summer

learning loss. It’s no surprise why most students do well when using our curriculum. When kids work with engrossing material, they learn, and our simulations prove this. This past summer, for example, students from the nine Chicago schools where we administered math pre- and posttests significantly improved their math scores. This improvement is particularly notable because most poor kids lose ground over the summer and because our students achieved this gain after only 4–5 weeks!

We asked the 2009 KKL teachers how likely they would be, on a scale of 1–10, to recommend our program to a colleague.

**Of the 35 teachers who responded, 86% indicated they would be likely or very likely to recommend Classroom, Inc., and 60% of those gave “10”—“extremely likely”— as their answer.**



*Kim, a teacher at Chicago’s Henson Elementary School, observes her students working on The Chelsea Bank simulation.*

It’s not too early to think about supporting your 2010 summer school students! To find out more, go to [www.classroominc.org](http://www.classroominc.org).