



LAUNCH PAD



Academic Spotlight

Summer Camp Brings Another Year of Growth

This summer, our program proudly welcomed students from across our partner counties for our second annual Summer Camp. Building on last year's success, we partnered with CoolSpeak to create an engaging experience focused on leadership, teamwork, and personal growth.

Throughout the camp, students participated in interactive team-building activities, leadership development sessions, exciting games, and inspiring keynote presentations led by the camp facilitators. These experiences encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence, and develop meaningful

connections with their peers.

Beyond the activities, one of the most rewarding outcomes was watching students form new friendships with classmates from different schools. Many campers shared that they enjoyed meeting new people, participating in the challenges, and, of course, the great food!

As we reflect on another successful summer, we are grateful to everyone who helped make this experience possible. We look forward to welcoming even more students next year for another unforgettable Summer Camp filled with learning, leadership, and lasting memories.

Eduardo's SSA Journey

This summer, 9th grader and GEAR UP student Eduardo took his learning beyond the classroom through the Student Success Agency's (SSA) Boss Summer Internship. The experience gave him the opportunity to explore the business world, develop new skills, and think more intentionally about his future. Eduardo's summer journey also took him to Washington, D.C., where he spoke at the NCCEP Annual Conference and shared his experiences with GEAR UP professionals from across the country. Through these opportunities, Eduardo gained confidence, discovered new possibilities for his future, and began to see himself as a leader who can inspire other students.



Parent Insight

Helping Your Student Thrive

As students settle into the school year, families play an important role in supporting academic success and overall well-being. Here are a few simple ways to help your 8th or 9th grader stay on track:

1. Encourage Organization

Help your student keep track of assignments, quizzes, and important dates by using a planner or digital calendar. Developing these habits now builds a strong foundation for high school and beyond.

2. Create Healthy Screen Time Habits

Set boundaries around technology, especially during homework and bedtime. Consider making meals

device-free and charging phones outside the bedroom to help reduce distractions and improve sleep.

3. Prioritize Sleep

Sleep is essential for learning, focus, and emotional well-being. Teens should aim for 8–10 hours of sleep each night to perform their best in and out the classroom.

4. Stay Connected

Keep in touch with your student's teachers, attend school events when possible, and ask about their day. Small, consistent conversations can make a big difference in helping students feel supported throughout the school year.

A Look Back: Summer 26

Snapshots of some key moments from this summer.



Our Site Coordinators

Our Site Coordinators are dedicated to supporting students every step of the way. From planning educational activities to connecting students with valuable resources, they are here to help every student succeed.



Teacher's Corner

Support Students Beyond the Classroom

GEAR UP provides students with resources and services that extend learning beyond the classroom, at no cost to students and families. One resource available to GEAR UP students is **Tutor.com**, which provides online tutoring support when students need extra help with their coursework.

Teachers can help students get the most out of this resource by encouraging them to use Tutor.com for homework help, challenging assignments, or additional practice.

Remind your GEAR UP students to take advantage of this free resource and make tutoring part of their academic toolkit!

National GEARUP Week: Lighting the Way

Every year, our organization comes together to celebrate GEAR UP Week. This year, our theme is **"Lighting the Way."** From September 21–25, we will celebrate the students, families, educators, and community members who help our students explore their potential and prepare for their futures. Follow along with us on social media to see how we're lighting the way across our counties!

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SUPPORTING 8TH & 9TH GRADERS IN WARREN, ONEIDA, CLAY, AND OVERTON COUNTIES.