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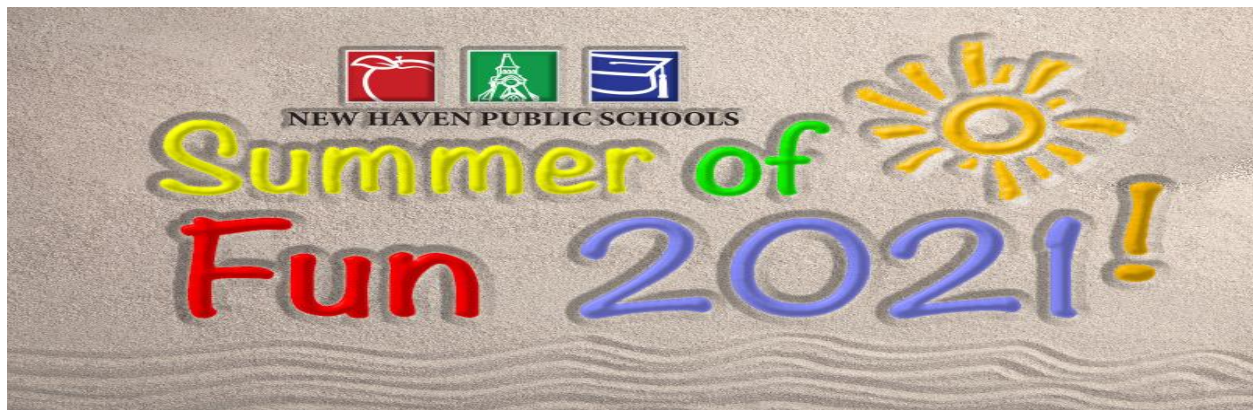
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May 5, 2021

**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS
LAUNCH “SUMMER OF FUN 2021” WITH A PROGRAMS AND
RESOURCES FAIR.**

*Collaboration to help families and students access summer programming for all
New Haven students*

NEW HAVEN, CT – May 5, 2021 – The New Haven Public Schools’ Summer of Fun 2021 will launch with a virtual **Summer Programs and Resources Fair** on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 10 AM to 1 PM, accessible to all New Haven families via nhps.net/summer. Families will connect with summer camp programs and other community resources, including wellness services and technology assistance. Many programs will offer low-cost or no-cost programs and/or scholarships. The Fair’s opening session at 10 AM will include a message from **Special Guest Bria Holmes**, Guard for the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA and Hillhouse graduate. All New Haven families are encouraged to participate and find a great fit for their children.



“The New Haven Public Schools is thrilled to offer our students a vibrant array of summer activities. We want all of our students to have a fun-filled, safe summer with friends, especially after spending so much time outside of the school environment,” said Superintendent Dr. Iline Tracey. Gwendolyn Williams, Director of the City of New Haven’s Youth and Recreation Department, added that “it is imperative we change the trajectory of the Covid 19 impact on our youth. This collaboration will allow us to create a sense of normalcy as the State of Connecticut opens up again.”

The district’s focus is to offer opportunities for play this summer, since play improves the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and young people. Through play, children learn about the world and themselves. Other elements of the Summer of Fun will include: The Superintendent’s Communitywide Fitness and Move Challenge, to launch June 2, 2021; NHPS Academic and Enrichment Camps at 12 locations starting July 1, 2021; credit retrieval at all high schools; a Back to School Celebration and Rally on August 16, 2021; and more Summer of Fun 2021 programs still that will be announced in the coming weeks.

Clifford Beers will facilitate wellness support services for participating children and families across programs, and invites families to learn about how to access services immediately, as well as over the summer. Dr. Alice Forrester, CEO of Clifford Beers, explained that the agency “is fully committed to supporting children and families, and especially to working with all of our partners to infuse this summer with play, joy, and community-building.”

In partnership with the New Haven Public Schools, Elm City Communities will provide scholarships for residents to participate in summer camp programs, as well as offer youth employment and mentorship through its RSVP program. Shenae Draughn, Acting President of Elm City Communities, noted that "we have long understood the importance of summer programming for physical and mental health, and are excited to collaborate with the New Haven Public Schools and



other partners to facilitate a summer of fun and healing for all of our young residents."

The United Way will support these efforts with a Summer Youth Fund Grant opportunity to help youth organizations adapt their existing summer programs to safely serve young people through in-person or hybrid programming. A committee of young people, parents, and community members will decide the awards.

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