



# Summer Learning Update

## **Boston Summer Learning is Front Page News!**

The Summer Learning Project has been front and center in Boston newspaper media this month, as the 23 Summer Learning sites across Greater Boston kicked off programming. Sociedad Latina's site (partnering with Tobin K-8 & serving as an ELL hub) appeared on the [front page of the Boston Globe](#) on July 9, while the USS Constitution/Courageous Sailing (partnering with Harvard Kent Elementary, Warren Prescott K-8) earned ink in the July 17 [Charlestown Patch](#). The articles conveyed the true sense of Summer Learning: closing the achievement gap through academically-themed programming, while closing opportunity gaps by providing students with the ability to develop skills and engage in new, exciting experiences.

### **Spotlight:**

#### **Harbor Pilot Middle School & Dorchester House "Dotwell"**

##### **Essential Question: "Who am I?"**

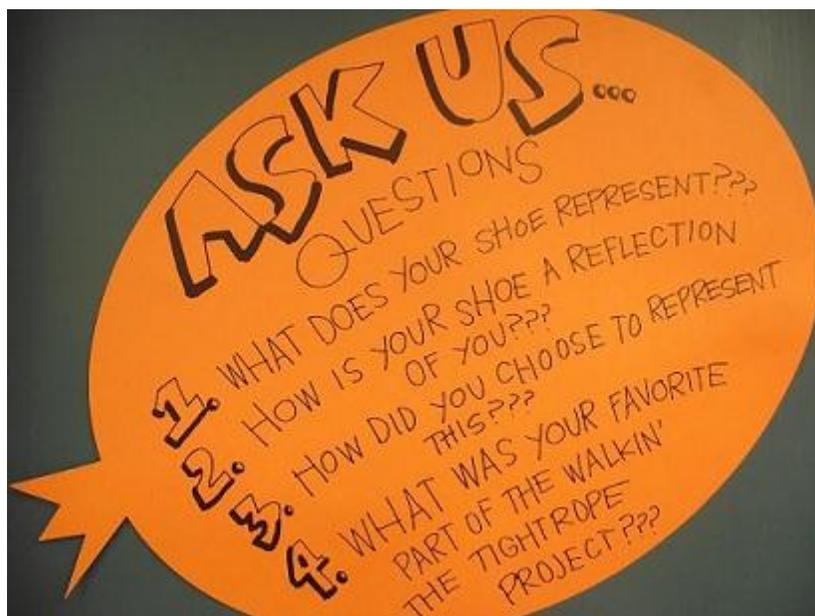
Energy, enthusiasm, and enterprise fill the Dotwell teen center every afternoon as students gather markers, art materials, and new sneakers to answer their Summer Learning site's essential question: "Who am I?" "Walkin' the Tightrope" is a visual arts activity – part of the overall Harbor-Dotwell partnership – in which students explore the connections between sneaker design and self-expression. The end products of the activity are personalized sneakers and an autobiographical essay.

This is just one aspect of the Harbor-Dotwell Summer Learning partnership, entering its 2<sup>nd</sup> summer. In answering the "Who am I?" question, students explore how academics, business, leadership, and health make them assets to the community. Through classes at the Harbor and activities at Dotwell, students explore their role in the community, in the classroom, in their future careers, and in their personal and professional lives.

Students read short stories about personal identity in ELA class, to prepare them for their sneaker design and autobiographical essays. Students learn about finances – including the stock market – and utilize the context of creating a cookbook to help master BPS math standards in math class. Activities tie into these academic explorations. At Dotwell,

in addition to "Walkin' the Tightrope," students participate in cooking classes, gym, financial health courses, and life skill sessions. Students also perform community service.

Through all of these activities between the Harbor School and Dotwell locations, students are aiming to answer "Who Am I?" – while developing the academic and personal skills for success.



*Questions that students answered during their "Walkin' the Tightrope" project.*



*The final products: The students hard work and creativity fill the ceiling!*

## **Spotlight Fast Facts:**

### *Nonprofit:*

Dorchester House "Dotwell"

### *Sending School:*

Harbor Pilot Middle School

### *Student Breakdown:*

18 students entering Grade 7

24 students entering Grade 8

### *Staffing:*

6 BPS staff/teachers working in partnership with Dotwell staff

### *Programming:*

Partnership will offer 162.5 hours of programming this summer