

Building Perseverance through Swimming, Sailing, and Science at Courageous Sailing

Don a life jacket. Check. Gather my classmates and board our boat. Check. Untie from the dock and hoist our sail. Check. Soak in amazing views of the Boston skyline while learning the fine art of sailing. Check.

It's a day in the life of 60 students (incoming 4th/5th graders) at the Courageous Sailing-Boston Public Schools (BPS) site in Charlestown, where students are pursuing the essential question, "Why is water important to me?" BPS teachers and Courageous Sailing staff co-deliver project-based ELA and math lessons, complemented by hands-on science activities, sailing instruction, and swimming. BPS Superintendent Tommy Chang observed many of these activities in a recent visit (see sidebar for tweets).

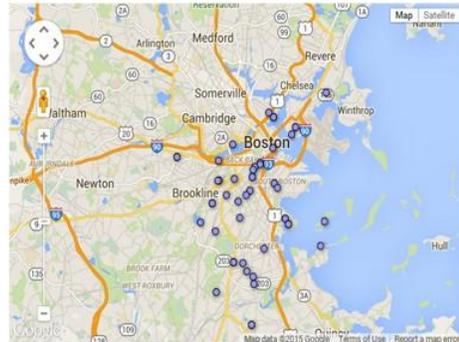
Check out Courageous Sailing's focus on closing achievement and opportunity gaps in this [NECN spotlight](#).



Empowering students to develop perseverance is a key tenet of all daily activities. Perseverance is one of 4 "power skills" (perseverance, relationships, self-regulation, and critical thinking) that guides all 79 sites in the Boston Summer Learning Community. Staff carefully direct students by breaking down sailing instruction into manageable steps, and regularly praise students for conquering fears and new challenges toward their end goals. Teachers and staff celebrate student accomplishments, whether they happen in the classroom, in a boat, or in the swimming pool.

And through their perseverance and commitment this summer, students will most certainly bring a newfound confidence back to the classroom this fall.

MAP OF 2015 SUMMER LEARNING SITES



The 2015 Summer Learning Community is working in over 70 program sites located throughout Greater Boston. Click on the map above for an interactive tour of participating summer learning sites.

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Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders at Camp Lapham with Crossroads for Kids

Imagine a summer filled with boating and swimming, followed by team-based ropes climbing, and even a 5-day, 4-night trek through the White Mountains. Phew. Talk about a productive summer.



It's par for the course for incoming 8th-12th graders in Crossroads for Kids' C5 Program, one of the 79 sites in the Boston Summer Learning Community. This five-year commitment is year-round and includes a summer residential program at Camp Lapham in Ashby, where students are focused on the 5 Cs: Character Driven, Community Focused, Challenge Ready, College Bound, and Committed to a Better Future.

During summer, students participate in a leadership development curriculum, with a heavy emphasis on practicing leadership through team-based activities including biking, social justice community action, arts, and backpacking. Each summer culminates with a trek experience.

Helping students with perseverance through challenges is an important element of C5. Students reflect nightly by a campfire on how each team member continues to grow through shared experiences. "This is all related to success in school and college," explained Jessica Dugan, Crossroads' Director of Program Development. "The treks and activities help students learn the skills and strategies to overcome obstacles. By the end, students say, 'I can do things I never thought I could.'"

To learn more about what informs this approach to summer learning, check out a [guest column](#) by Deb Samuels, president of Crossroads for Kids, about stopping the summer slide, featured in WBUR's Learning Lab.

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for future updates, please contact David McAuley at dmcauley@bostonbeyond.org

