

Berkeley

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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STEP

UP!

ACADEMY

EST 2013

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Presented by the African American Success Framework

Greetings!

As we finish up the first month of the school year, we'd like to check in with a calendar of upcoming STEP UP! Academy dates, plus a recap of the eventful summer that BUSD scholars spent at the STEP UP! Academy. Please save the calendar below, then keep scrolling to enjoy snapshots of the STEP UP! Academy's summer sessions!

Save These Key STEP UP! Academy Dates

Activity	Date
BUSD Black-to-School Event	September 16th, 2023
Check-in #2	November 4th, 2023
Check-in #3	February 10th, 2024
Check-in #4	May 4th, 2024

We can't wait to see you all next **Saturday, September 16th** at BUSD's Second Annual Black-to-School event! Join us from **10:00am-1:00pm** at **Willard Middle School** for STEAM games, parent and student workshops, and more—plus free breakfast and lunch!

Summer Recap

From Monday, July 31st to Friday, August 11th, this 8-week series of academic enrichment sessions combined asynchronous at-home learning with in-person sessions and field trips. The STEP UP! Academy motivated and prepared rising 3rd-8th grade BUSD students for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Thrive-at-Home Kits

On Friday, June 16th, the STEP UP! Academy team distributed Thrive-at-Home kits for scholars to complete hands-on STEAM projects for asynchronous sessions during Weeks 1-6. Projects included homemade clay and cartouches, recycling plastic, Adire-style wax Batik crafting, mask-making, engineering beacons, and more.

In addition, scholars received backpacks and STEP UP! Academy swag!

STEP UP! Academy gear

Scholars with new backpacks

Thrive-at-Home Kit pickup

Contact us: stemstepsforsuccess@gmail.com



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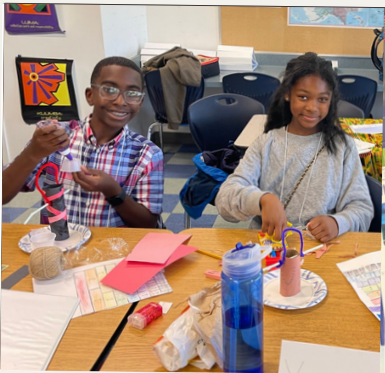
In-Person Sessions

During Weeks 7 and 8, scholars convened to work on hands-on STEAM projects. Programming also included opening and closing circles, "Today in Black History," and intentional goal-setting.

"My goal is to keep going no matter what and to believe in myself."
 "If I feel like I can't do something, just breathe."
 "My goal is to review what is a fraction... and to test myself."



Benjamin Banneker
Creative Clock



Mini Beacon



Bird Feeder and
Butterfly Sanctuary



Photo op!



Outdoor break

Field Trips

Strawberry Creek

On Friday, August 4th, scholars visited Strawberry Creek for a fun-filled day of outdoor activities and learning, growing their STEAM skills out in the sunshine with math jeopardy, science trivia, and other academic games.



Strawberry Creek



Strawberry Creek



Strawberry Creek



STEP UP! Academy Staff



Movement Break



Contact us: stemstepsforsuccess@gmail.com



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Spirit of the Town

On Friday, August 11th, STEP UP! Academy Scholars embarked on the Mobile East Bay Black History Tour of Oakland. Scholars visited the Oakland Museum of California, stopped at the Town Fare Cafe for lunch, moved on to the Noire Wealth Xperience Selfie Museum, and finished at the African American Museum & Library. In between stops, students learned about Oakland’s Black history and participated in active Q&A.



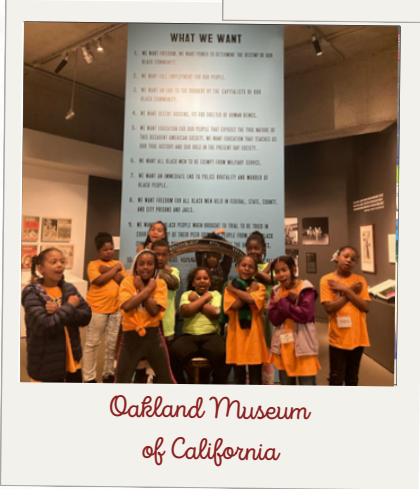
Noire Wealth Xperience
Selfie Museum



African American
Museum and Library



Noire Wealth Xperience
Selfie Museum



Oakland Museum
of California



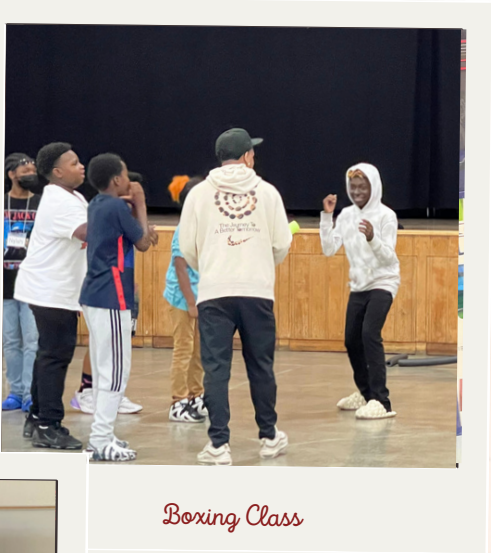
Oakland Museum
of California

More Activities

In addition to STEAM projects, field trips, and goal-setting, scholars rounded out the STEP UP! Academy experience with special enrichment activities.

Scholars completed a boxing self defense class and received certificates to show off their new skills.

Plus—it’s never too early to learn about college! Dr. Darlene V. Willis and College Bound led a workshop on how to excel on the path to higher education.



Boxing Class



College Bound Workshop



Newly-certified in self defense

Thank you to the scholars, families, instructors, and community partners who made the STEP UP! Academy Back-to-School sessions a success! We look forward to our next group of sessions with BUSD's curious scholars.



Contact us: stemstepsforsuccess@gmail.com