

Family & Caregiver Packet

Summer 2025

Welcome to the Summer Newcomer Academy!



We are so glad your child is part of our program! This academy is designed to support middle and high school students who are new to the U.S. and Cabarrus County. Together, we will build language, confidence, and connections to help your child succeed.

What's Inside:

Learn about the daily schedule, student expectations, guest speakers, and the student Capstone Project. You'll also find ways to talk with your child about the program — and a space to share your hopes for their future. Thank you for being part of this journey!



Program Information

Program Overview

This program is designed for middle and high school students who will benefit from additional support as they transition into school in their first year in the United States. We also recognize the vital role that families play in this journey! Throughout the program, we will offer opportunities for you to be involved, including special resources and celebrations of student learning.

At the Summer Newcomer Academy, students will:

- Build confidence in English while celebrating their home language.
- Make new friends and connect with mentors.
- Learn important skills to navigate school successfully.
- Engage in hands-on projects that connect their past experiences to their future goals.

This Summer's Theme:

- **Week 1:** *Our Stories Belong Here*
- **Week 2:** *Our Future Starts Here*

Dates & Times

- July 14th - July 17th and July 21st - 24th
- Monday - Thursday (NO Fridays)
- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location

- **Performance Learning Center** (A CCS High School)
 - 4521 Weddington Road, Concord, NC 28027

Transportation

Limited bus transportation is available, and provided by Cabarrus County Schools. Students are welcome to attend if parents can arrange transportation. Bus information will be shared on ParentSquare and sent home with your child on a printed slip.

Lunch & Snacks

Lunch and a morning snack will be provided. Students are also allowed to bring lunches if they choose to or if they have dietary restrictions or preferences.

What to Bring:

All instructional materials are provided.

Capstone Project:

At the end of the Summer Newcomer Academy, students will choose one of four creative projects to complete and share with the group. These options include telling their story, exploring their future goals, honoring someone who inspires them, or reflecting on another newcomer's story. Each project helps students build confidence, practice English, and celebrate their identity and dreams. We can't wait to see what they create!

Daily Schedule:

- 9:00 am - Students Arrive
- 9:00 am - 9:05 am - Opening
- 9:05 am - 11:30 am - Small Group/Class Time
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm - Lunch
- 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm - Guest Speaker Time
- 12:30 pm - 12:50 pm - Capstone Project Work Time
- 12:50 pm - 1:00 pm - Clean Up and Prepare for Dismissal
- 1:00 pm - Dismissal (Students depart on buses or in cars)

Student Expectations

At the Summer Newcomer Academy, students are expected to follow the same rules and behavior guidelines as they would during the regular school year in any Cabarrus County school. This helps create a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all students. Refer to the [Parent & Student Handbook](#) for reminders of student and parent expectations.

At our academy, we work together to create a **safe, kind, and respectful** place where everyone belongs. These expectations help us grow together:

- **We Practice Self-Control and Respect**
 - Use kind words and peaceful problem-solving
 - Follow directions
 - Use a calm, appropriate voice
 - Dress appropriately for school
 - Follow school rules during the program and on the bus
- **We Support Our Learning**
 - We try our best to be on time each day.
 - We ask questions when we don't understand - this is how we learn!
 - We complete our work and help each other succeed.
- **We Are Kind and Positive**
 - We work together and help each other.
 - We learn how to be leaders in a new place.
- **We Respect Everyone's Feelings and Backgrounds**
 - We give others time to speak and learn.
 - We listen to different ideas and cultures.
 - We show care, patience, and empathy to others.
- **We Take Responsibility**
 - We do the right thing, even when it's difficult.
 - We take care of our school, classroom, and materials.
 - We learn from our mistakes and try again.

Remember:

Everyone is learning and growing together. It's okay to ask questions, make mistakes, and take your time.

This is a place where you BELONG. 🤝

Meet Your Teachers

Get to know the amazing educators who will be working with your child this summer! Each teacher brings unique experiences, care, and creativity to help students feel welcome, practice English, and build confidence.

	Mrs. Roxana Dalaban <i>(ML Teacher - West Cabarrus High School)</i> Mrs. Dalaban loves learning about her students' cultures and believes everyone has something special to share. She's excited to help students grow in English and feel confident in school.		Mrs. Emily Francis <i>(ML Teacher - Concord High School)</i> Mrs. Francis came to the U.S. from Guatemala as a newcomer herself. She's passionate about storytelling and helping students share their voices and experiences.
	Mrs. Victoria Plemmons <i>(ML Teacher - Winecoff Elementary)</i> Mrs. Plemmons has taught both elementary and middle school. She loves connecting with students and sharing her Colombian heritage. Spanish is her second language, and looks forward to learning more about you this summer.		Mrs. Tracey Shepard <i>(ML Teacher - Roberta Road Middle School)</i> Mrs. Shepard has years of experience supporting multilingual learners. She loves learning about other cultures - and even traveled to Egypt to see the pyramids!
	Mrs. Sarah Whitfield <i>(District Multilingual Learner Instructional Specialist, Summer Academy Director)</i> Mrs. Whitfield is a former ML teacher and now supports teachers across Cabarrus County. She believes in building bridges between schools and families, and is passionate about helping every child and caregiver feel at home.		

Guest Speakers

Each day, your child will attend a special session led by guest speakers from Cabarrus County Schools and the local community. These sessions are designed to help students learn more about school programs, college and career options, sports, library resources, and more!

Students will choose which session to attend based on their interests. This is a great opportunity to explore new topics, connect with school and community leaders, and ask questions in a small group setting.

Cabarrus County Schools District Speakers

District leaders from Cabarrus County Schools will present sessions on a variety of topics, including:

- **Advanced Learning & Gifted Programs**
- **Athletics**
- **Middle and High School Counseling**
- **Program Choice Options (STEM, Fine Arts, Dual Language, etc.)**
- **Career & Technical Education, including hands-on career exploration activities**

Your child will also hear from student mentors - former newcomers who will share their personal journeys and offer encouragement and tips to help your child feel welcome and confident.

Community-Based Speakers

Local community organizations will also share helpful information for students and families. These sessions may include topics such as:

- **Connecting with community support services**
- **Planning for college and careers**
- **Using library resources for learning and fun**

We're excited to welcome representatives from these organizations:



Family Voices: Strengths, Hopes, and Dreams

We are so excited to get to know your child - not only as a student, but as a whole person. You are your child's first and most important teacher. Your perspective helps us create a learning environment where they feel seen, valued, and supported.

Please take a few minutes to tell us more about your child. You can write in English or your home language. Your insights help us better support and connect with your child during the Summer Newcomer Academy. Your responses will help our team:

- Build on your child's strengths and interests
- Honor your family's rich language, literacy, and ways of learning
- Get to know how your child experiences reading, writing and communication at home
- Understand how they learn and grow best
- Create meaningful learning experiences
- Partner with you throughout the summer and beyond

Please return the completed Family Survey (pages 8 and 9) on the first day of the program.

Thank you for sharing your child with us. We can't wait to learn from you both!



The following questions and reflections are inspired by Nawal Qarooni's book, "Nourishing Caregiver Collaborations", which honors families as essential partners in their children's learning.

Family Survey

Student's Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Student Information

1. What does your child do particularly well?

2. What are your child's interests or favorite activities?

3. What motivates your child or makes them want to try something new?

4. What makes your child smile or feel comfortable?

5. What do you enjoy doing with your child?

Share Your Hopes and Dreams for Your Child

Please share your hopes and dreams for your child as they begin their journey at the Summer Newcomer Academy. This will be shared with your child's teacher and celebrated as part of their story. You can write in any language.

You may use these sentence starters or write your own response:

- *My dream for my child is...*
- *I hope my child will...*
- *I want my child to feel...*
- *What I love most about my child is...*

What are your dreams for your child?

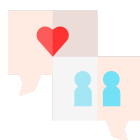
Family Reflections & Conversations

Take time to talk as a family. These questions are designed to help students and caregivers share stories, hopes, and experiences with each other. You can write, draw, or just talk — what matters most is sharing and listening together. Use these questions to guide your conversation with your child:

Week 1: Our Stories Belong Here	Week 2: Our Future Starts Here
	
• What is something important about your culture or language that you want others to understand? • What was your first day in a new place like? (a new school, job, or country) • What do you want your teachers and classmates to know about your family's story? • Who helped you feel welcome in a new place? How did they help you?	• What are some hopes or dreams you have for the future? • What does success mean in our family? How do we celebrate it? • What kind of school or learning experience do you hope for in the future - for yourself or our family? • What advice would you give someone just starting something new?

Tips for Meaningful Conversations

- ★ Find a comfortable moment. 
- ★ Take turns speaking and listening. 
- ★ There are no right or wrong answers! 
- ★ Ask follow up questions: 
 - *Why do you think that?*
 - *Tell me more!*
 - *What happened next?*
- ★ Share your ideas creatively! Draw a picture, write a note, or make a voice recording together to remember what you talked about. 



Contact Us

We're here to support you! If you have any questions about the Summer Newcomer Academy, please don't hesitate to reach out.

You can contact us in the way that's easiest for you:

-  Message us on ParentSquare
-  Send a message on our Facebook page - "CCS Multilingual Learner Department"
- Contact the Site Director, Sarah Whitfield, directly:
 -  sarah.whitfield@cabarrus.k12.nc.us
 -  (704)223-7748

We look forward to partnering with you this summer!

Thank you for committing to your child's journey and future. Your support makes all the difference.

We honor the journey that brought each student and family here.

We look forward to the bright future ahead!

