

## Keeping students strong, safe, and smart over summer

Written by Bernadeia H. Johnson, Ed.D Superintendent of Schools  
Monday, 08 July 2013 12:20

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Summer has finally arrived and Minneapolis Public Schools is pleased to again team up with community organizations for the Summer Strong partnership, thereby providing key educational programs and resources for students over the summer.

We want our students to stay strong, safe and smart during the summer months when they are not in school. Summer Strong offers access to basic needs, summer school, as well as activities and events at local parks, libraries and other community sites.

Events include radio station KBEM/Jazz88's concerts in the park. The concerts will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at parks across the city on Wednesday afternoons. You can find a schedule at [mpls.k12.mn.us/partner\\_events.html](http://mpls.k12.mn.us/partner_events.html) .

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will host its safety camp for students entering the third, fourth and fifth grades, from August 6 to 8 at Theodore Wirth Park. Police officers and firefighters serve as counselors to the youth, teaching them personal and social safety skills in a fun and friendly environment. Find more information at [minneapolisparcs.org](http://minneapolisparcs.org) .

For families that love books, the Hennepin County Library offers many ways for students of all

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ages to win books, participate in fun programs and join a book club. Minneapolis Central Library hosts a photo pop-up book class for students entering grades 3 through 5 to learn how to use photography to illustrate stories. More information is available at [mpls.k12.mn.us/partner\\_events.html](http://mpls.k12.mn.us/partner_events.html)

Our summer school program is underway and our students are finding great opportunities to catch up on their schoolwork and also speed ahead. MPS summer school provides a strong and engaging academic program that includes classroom time and field trips for students who qualify with free transportation and great food.

Speaking of great food, MPS unveiled its brand new food truck as part of the Summer School launch a couple of weeks ago. The food truck will visit various sites across the city, which will enable MPS to provide more children with free breakfast, lunch and dinner during the summer. Follow the MPS food truck at <http://summerlunchmap.2harvest.org/> .

Thank you again to our Summer Strong partners including the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Hennepin County Library, United Way 2-1-1 and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board. Resource guides are available at schools, parks, libraries, and other community locations and online at [www.summerstrong.org](http://www.summerstrong.org) .