**Summer Programs 2011-2012**

What are Summer Programs?

Because we know that what scholars experience and achieve in their summer months is crucial to the development of well-rounded scholars and their robust college resumes, Achievement First requires every scholar in our community to complete 3 summers of high-caliber, pre-approved summer programs and internships. Achievement First Brooklyn High School awarded $20,000 in scholarships to participants last year.

Fulfilling your Summer Programs graduation requirement

Each year, scholars must select and qualify to apply for a summer program or internship. A scholar must complete his or her summer program in order to advance to the next grade level. Scholars will receive support and advising through the Office of College Readiness and Student Life and will complete their program and internship applications throughout the winter and spring, in order to secure an exciting best-fit opportunity before June. There are three types of approved experiences that a student can undertake to fulfill their Summer Programs requirement:

Program Types and Eligibility

Scholars must select from pre-approved programs and internships offered through AFBHS partnerships with colleges, companies, organizations and programs across New York City and beyond. Students may qualify for participation in highly selective Pre-College programs, Internships, and Growth Programs. The eligibility guidelines for these programs are listed below. Scholars must meet rigorous standards for academic and character achievement on order to be eligible to apply to a pre-college program.

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| Types | Academic\* | Character | Examples |
| **Pre-College**  | 3.0+ GPA and no Fs for QI and QII | Silver Level +Outstanding teacher recommendations | Princeton Summer Journalism Program; Barnard Young Women’s Leadership Institute; LEAD Summer Business Institutes ; Ithaca College for High School Students; Philips Exeter Academy; High Mountain Institute; JSA-Georgetown |
| **Internships**  | Good Academic Standing (2.0+ GPA) for QI and QII | Silver Level +Outstanding teacher recommendations | NYCBA Constitutional Rights Program for High School Students: Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship; Brooklyn Children’s Law Center |
| **Growth Programs**  | 70%+ | Bronze Level + | American Museum of Natural History: High School Summer Science Institute ; Vibe Theater Program |
| **Summer Academy**  | Failed a class and/or on Penalty | Penalty | Academic classes at AF Brooklyn High School (AM), enrichment program (PM)  |

\*In order to maintain eligibility to participate in Pre-College programs and Internships, a scholar must maintain the academic standards outlined above throughout the winter and spring.

Timeline & Process for Applying

Scholars will begin to select and apply for summer programs as early as January of 2012. Families will receive a letter home in the mail in early February communicating notification of scholars’ eligibility to apply for specific types of programs – Pre-College, Internship, and Growth. All scholars will receive support completing the Common Summer Application throughout February and March in College Readiness Seminar class.[[1]](#footnote-1) The calendar below summarizes the timeline for Summer Programs applications and matriculation for the school year.

Frequently Asked Questions:

* ***Do these programs cost money?*** Yes, they do. Families of scholars attending Pre-College programs should start planning for these expenses now, which will total on average $1,300 per participant. (AFBHS and the program will cover between $3,000 and $7,000 of the cost.) Families in need of subway scholarships for Internships and Growth programs may apply for financial aid from the school.
* ***My scholar wants to do the Summer Youth Employment Program as his/her summer experience. Does this count?*** We do not accept or approve SYEP programs as counting toward the Summer Programs graduation requirement. However, if your scholar would like to choose and complete one of our approved partner programs and then pursue SYEP in addition, s/he is encouraged to do this!
* ***How will my scholar travel to his/her pre-college program?*** We will work with your family and with other families attending the same program as your scholar to make sensible, affordable arrangements for travel.

Contact & Support:

* You can reach out to Ms. Sabrina Dawson, our Senior Associate for College Readiness to connect with questions and concerns about Summer Programs throughout the year. Ms. Dawson can be reached at sabrinadawson@achievementfirst.org or at **718-363-2260.** You can expect to receive correspondences from Ms. Dawson and her team throughout the year and more frequently as the dates of application and matriculation for programs draw closer.

Special Note: October 2011

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| **Wishbone Foundation applications:** Current sophomores and juniors who achieved a 3.0 or above GPA on their spring transcript this past June are invited to apply to pre-college programs through the prestigious Wishbone Foundation this fall. Ms. Dawson will be reaching out to these scholars and their families throughout October to coordinate this exciting opportunity to win scholarships and early admission to pre-college programs for next summer. |

1. If a scholar is not enrolled in College Readiness Seminar, s/he will be invited to a special workshop series to receive support on this application and throughout the Summer Programs advisory and placement process. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)