

Learning Throughout the Summer

by Diane Trautman

As the school year rolls to an end, I hear echoes of my sons' elementary school teachers. They lamented that students would forget important concepts during the summer then need a few weeks of review to get back into the swing of learning each fall.

For some students that may not be an issue.

A few local high school students will stay in the learning mode by taking summer classes at the College of the Canyons. Though I know it can complicate scheduling for the college students, the concurrent enrollment program has been a great asset for many students and their families, allowing students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Other students will enroll in summer school as offered by their school or district. The Hart District offers several options for students who want to prepare for the next level, who want to retake a course to improve their grade, or who need to complete a course to advance or to graduate.

For both of these groups, one-on-one tutoring can provide the extra support they need to successfully manage these brief, but intense, courses and earn those credits. This is also a great time for the tutor to help a student improve their basic student skills.

If you want to help your son or daughter prepare for the next school year without enrolling them in a structured program, you might consider bringing in a tutor who can create a limited curriculum. The benefit of this approach is that the tutor can tailor instruction to meet the precise needs of your child. If you can get a copy of the textbook your child will be using next year, that would be ideal. Keep in mind that the tutor would be developing a system for you, as opposed to working with an established program, and that this level of personalized service will require payment for preparation time.

Whether your child participates in a summer academic program or sits this one out, we hope you and your family will find the time to talk and to explore other facets of life together (nature, art, music, etc.) during this less hectic time.

As I look back on the recreation activities we've share with our sons, I think the time exploring and discussing our experiences has helped them develop inquisitive minds. That's a good investment in learning.