

# Bellesini



## Bellesini Summer Program:

### *Bridging the Gap from Spring to Fall*

A critical component of preparing our students for success in preparatory high schools is our “eleventh month” of school. For four weeks each summer, our students travel each day to St. John’s Prep in Danvers where they continue their academic classes each morning while enjoying enrichment and recreational activities in the afternoons.

Bellesini’s Summer Program prevents summer learning loss while allowing our students to continue to make academic gains, enjoy safe summer camp activities, and experience life on a prep school campus. And unlike other summer programs that work with students for a limited amount of time, the Bellesini Summer Program expands on the academic year as well as provides additional opportunities to enhance classroom learning.

Studies show that how students spend their summers accounts for a large part of the achievement gap between low income and middle class students, and makes a big difference in terms of high school track placement, high school completion, and college attendance. While middle income students continue to make academic gains during the summer by reading books, attending camps, and living in resource rich environments, low income students actually lose academic skills between June and September.



### GOALS OF THE SUMMER PROGRAM:

- **keep students safe** from the negative influences of the inner-city;
- provide a **fun summer camp experience**;
- **prevent summer learning loss**, which has been shown to be greater among low-income students;
- help students continue to **make essential academic gains**;
- expose students to **life on a prep school campus**;
- provide students with **quality nutrition**.



#### Bus to Danvers

7:30-8:00 AM

#### Academic Classes

8:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Each morning students attend four academic classes which include: Reading, Writing, History, & Math. Students also spend a portion of each day preparing for the SSAT exam. Our goal is to maintain and improve upon each student’s academic gains from the school year.



#### Lunch

12:00—12:30 PM

Eating lunch in the St. John’s cafeteria provides valuable nutrition while also helping students acclimate to the prep school environment.

#### Enrichment

12:30—2:30 PM

Afternoon enrichment activities make use of St. John’s Prep’s library and computer labs. Students participate in reading groups, computer classes and library activities.



#### Recreation

2:30—5:00 PM

At the close of the day the focus shifts to recreation. Students participate in sports clinics, as well as ongoing team-building competitions that include mental as well as physical challenges. Students also get a chance to cool off in the swimming pool.



#### Bus to Lawrence

5:00—5:30 PM

#### Weekly Field Trips

Each week students attend a field trip that broadens their world view or ties into the summer curriculum. Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also participate in a number of private high school visits during the summer program. These visits are an opportunity for students to tour different prep school campuses, meet admissions staff, and explore their options for the high school application process.



#### Fridays at Bellesini

On Fridays, students spend the day on the Bellesini campus in order to take advantage of local programs and activities. Students enjoy art instruction provided in partnership with the Essex Art Center and are also able to utilize the Academy’s subscription to *Math Facts in a Flash* and *Accelerated Reader* in the new computer lab.