

# STARR HILL PATHWAYS

## SUMMER PROGRAM REPORT 2023

PREPARED BY NINA R. SCHOONOVER  
MORGAN RUSTIA

EDUCATION EQUITY DATA SCIENTIST  
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

UVA EQUITY CENTER  
UVA S.E.H.D.

## STARR HILL PATHWAYS: A UVA EQUITY CENTER PROGRAM

July 10-28, 2023 marked the second year of Starr Hill Pathways summer programming.

The summer cohort of **177 Scholars** included rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders from Albemarle County Public Schools, Charlottesville City Schools, as well as a handful from private and/or home-schooled environments.

Every Scholar participated in 2 of the following **16 pathways** based on their self-selected interests:

Architecture, astronomy, computer science, creative/visual arts, culinary arts, data science, engineering technology, environmental planning, environmental science, filmmaking, health and medical science, neuroscience, performing arts, social media/communications, STEM, and veterinary science. In the afternoons, Scholars were in workshops such as jewelry-making, ceramics, or barbering, followed by sports and recreation.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Starr Hill Pathways program will enroll at least **80% of youth** that represent the global majority (e.g., scholars of color), who come from low- and middle-income households, and/or are first generation college students.

The Starr Hill Pathways curriculum includes:

1. interactive/hands-on activities that are engaging and appropriate for the middle grades audience
2. relationship-building activities to foster a cohort mentality
3. workshops and field trips that foster social/emotional wellness and community networks.

The program has sustained ongoing relationships with community partners from previous years of programming, and new community leaders and organizations are added to the university procurement system.

The Starr Hill Pathways Scholars report feeling safe, heard, and respected. At least **80% of programming** involves UVA facilities, partners, and/or other resources that promote college and career readiness.

## SHP BY THE NUMBERS

**40%** of SHP Scholars are bilingual/multilingual.

**60%** Female, **39%** Male, **0.05%** Nonbinary

**10%** Asian, **46%** Black, **33%** Hispanic/Latino, **2%** Multiracial, **9%** White

**138** Scholars used transportation services provided by Albemarle County Public Schools



**32** Counselors

**22** UVA student counselors

**5,310** O'Hill Dining Hall meals eaten

**1,500,000** steps taken

**10** On-Grounds Construction Sites avoided

**88** degrees average temperature

**9** Horses pet

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Albemarle County Public Schools Health and Medical Sciences Academy
- C4K
- Culinary Concepts AB
- Jefferson School of African American History and Culture
- Light House Studio
- National Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Ohana Horse Farm
- Piedmont Virginia Community College
- Rivanna Conservation Alliance
- The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative
- The STEMpreneur
- UVA Brain Camp
- UVA Clemons Library Staff
- UVA School of Architecture
- UVA School of Data Science
- UVA School of Education & Human Development
- Virginia Polo Center
- Wildrock

# OUR FINDINGS

## Walkthrough Observations

The research and programming teams conducted walkthrough observations of the pathways this summer.

These data measured if SHP Scholars :

1. were actively engaged, 2. felt safe and supported, and/or 3.
- were involved in interactive and hands-on activities.

## Weekly Check-In Surveys

At the end of the week 1 and week 2, students complete surveys using questions from the Panorama Education Student Check-ins. These questions were designed to ask participants to reflect on how they are doing socially and emotionally during their time in Starr Hill Pathways. We found that **87% of students** said they felt happy, excited, or loved.



# SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHTS



*“I learned how to make new friends. I learned how to communicate with people. I learned how to tell my problems to teachers I trust.”*

*“I'm kind of happy and sad at the same time because I won't be able to see my friends, especially one of them because she goes to a different school.”*

*“One thing I learned about myself in Starr Hill Pathways is that I'm not as interested as I thought I was in computer science, but rather about learning about nature and trying to help and protect it.”*

# BIG MOMENTS



Virginia College Advising Corps led 1:1 career and college advising sessions for 30 of our rising 9th grade scholars.



Virginia Polo Center hosted all SHP scholars, counselors, and staff for a match between UVA Polo and Work to Ride players from Philadelphia.



A Pep Rally was held on the first day of summer programming in John Paul Jones Arena.

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR SHP?

Scholars will continue to participate in the program during the 2023-2024 school year. Yearlong programming includes enrichment days where they will continue career exploration with community partners, academic tutoring to support them in areas of need, and continuous relationship and cohort building activities such as community events and lunches at schools.

As scholars enter high school, programming will grow with them to offer more mentorship, career and college support, and opportunities such as job shadowing and internships.