STARR HILL PATHWAYS
SUMMER PROGRAM REPORT 2023

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
- Omana Horse Farm
- Piedmont Virginia Community College
- Rivanna Conservation Alliance
- The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative
- The STEMprenuer
- 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.