

# Operation Xcel Newsletter

*Wednesday, 20th July 2022*



## No Busses!

Operation Xcel needs your help right now! We have had a ton of fun these past few weeks. We have been experimenting, building, learning, creating, and exploring, but not everyone has been able to participate. The cost of the buses has increased, and we need your help to fund transportation, so we can continue to provide free summer camp for ALL of our students!

[Check our website to donate!](#)

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## Meet The Staff!





# July Letter from the Executive Director

**Greetings friends, family, and supporters of Operation Xcel,**

I thought you might find it interesting to know how our 3 Steps Ahead Summer Camp began. In 2008, I fell immensely behind in my family's personal laundry. I was overwhelmed, trying to figure out if I should spend the week doing loads one-by-one or load up the car, find a laundromat, and hope to finish it all in a few hours. That is when it hit me! Our youth must feel the same anxiety when

they return to school and are already starting off behind the eight ball. I decided to start 3 Steps Ahead to help students get a step ahead in reading, a step ahead in math, and a step ahead in science - thus 3 Steps Ahead.

The school year after the first summer rewarded me with many students sharing their A and B grades and the confidence they gained returning to school. In that first quarter, I vividly remember one 7th grade young lady who had made all F grades the previous year, getting a B in math. Initially, she was very behind, so that summer, we began with the basic math facts, and we went on from there; this was the initial thinking behind 3 Steps Ahead. Research on Summer Slide points out that students can lose two or more months of learning if they are not academically engaged. As the years have gone by, this, coupled with the increasing number of children facing food insecurity, has only elevated my resolve to make 3 Steps Ahead a reality for our youth. Despite increasing costs that dwarf our current contributions, we made the commitment to our students to get them 3 Steps Ahead this summer.

This year when busses increased from \$90/day to \$325/day, and our field trips went from a few hundred dollars to as much as \$1,500, we did not throw in the towel! We have had to make some adjustments, but we will continue to expand the worldview and academic accomplishments of our youth. With our steadfastness



and your support through volunteering and monetary donations,  
our students can continue to reach for the stars.

Thank you.

Kindest regards,

Charlene



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