

Report of

Dover-Sherborn Community Education

Lisa B. Sawin, Director

Elizabeth McCoy, Superintendent

Dover-Sherborn Community Education is a self-sustaining department of the Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools. Our mission is to provide programs that enrich the lives of everyone in our community. Our hope is to create lifelong learners through a community/school partnership that offers interesting, thought-provoking, and stimulating classes and programs at a reasonable cost. Community Education includes Extended Day at both Chickering and Pine Hill Elementary Schools, and Youth and Adult Enrichment classes.

Dover-Sherborn Community Education offers the following programs:

Extended Day

The tuition-based Extended Day Program is held at both elementary schools, where safe and stimulating after-school environments are provided for students in grades K–5. Children engage in arts and crafts projects, nature projects, outdoor physical activities, games, and creative play. Snacks are provided. The program is offered Monday through Friday with two afternoon pickup times: 5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m. At the time of this writing, 88 children were enrolled in Dover and 96 children in Sherborn. Both programs maintain waiting lists.

After-School Enrichment

After-school enrichment programs providing age-appropriate classes for elementary and high school students are also offered. Classes for students are held at Pine Hill Elementary School, Chickering Elementary School, Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS), and Dover-Sherborn High School (DSHS).

In 2023 we offered both virtual and in-person classes. Offerings for grades K–5 included Cupcake Decorating, Flag Football, Hip Hop, Chess, Lego Construction, Home Alone, Paint Your Pet, Drawing, and Babysitting and Childcare. We also supported and oversaw the DSMS Drama program during the summer and facilitated string instrument lessons in all four schools during the school year.

Adult Enrichment

In 2023, the Community Education Adult Program offered a combination of virtual and in-person classes. Virtual classes included Understanding Medicare, Demystifying Social Security, Estate Planning, and How to Apply for College Financial Aid. In-person classes included Boating Skills, Seamanship and Basic Navigation, Floral Design classes, SAT Prep, Dog Obedience, Watercolor Painting, Oil Painting, Guitar Lessons, First Aid, CPR, and Golf Lessons at the Needham Golf Club.

We also collaborated with other communities, including Concord-Carlisle, Acton-Boxborough and Medway, to offer classes such as Line Dancing, Ballroom Dancing, Instant Piano and Instant Guitar for Hopelessly Busy People. Partnering with The Glass Bar in Needham, we offered in-person classes for youths and adults on various glass-fusing techniques. New this year, we partnered with Social Club Simple to offer virtual classes, including How to Use Uber Transportation for Independence, Using Snapchat Safely, Google Sheets for Awesome Beginners, and others. Virtual classes are recorded to allow viewing them at any time. Additional support is also provided by the instructor following the class for students who have questions. We plan to continue offering virtual classes, since they appear to work well for both students and instructors.

Registration

Registration for the Extended Day Program is held in March for the following school year. Registration for all other programs, including Adult Enrichment, begins once brochures have been distributed or when the information is posted online. Full class descriptions and all brochures and flyers can be found at www.doversherborn.org (click on “Students & Families,” then “Community Education”). Online program registration is available at <https://dscommed.communityroot.com/index/registration>.

Contact Information

The Community Education office is located in Lindquist Commons on the DSHS campus, 9 Junction Street, Dover, MA 02030. Our phone number is (508) 785-0036, extension 7516.