

The Pathway to the Promise.™

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Summer Dreamers Academy
Pittsburgh Public Schools
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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March 29, 2016

To The Sprout Fund,

Please accept this letter of support for the play.CLOH.org proposal, coordinated by Mark Rauterkus, under consideration by the Remake Learning Badge-Enabled Playlists & Pathways Request for Proposal process. Mark has been a longstanding partner with Pittsburgh Public Schools, providing engaging summer programming to our Summer Dreamers Academy campers across the city. His swimming and water polo activity is one of the most popular offerings at camp, showing the demand for rigorous, unique opportunities for children.

Mr. Rauterkus is a longstanding champion for youth, and dreams big in an effort to coordinate adults in service of programming for children. He truly envisions Pittsburgh as a City of Learning for young people, with opportunities available across all neighborhoods, so that no athletic field, gym, or swimming pool sits idle when it could be occupied by youth. He also develops incredible out-of-the box programming elements to increase engagement and impact, including creating gigantic cut-outs of letters, peppered with vocabulary terms, to reinforce literacy skills while building athletic stamina. Children literally ran through the alphabet, and were thrilled to do so.

Along with the unique programming that he creates, Mr. Rauterkus also is incredible at documenting what he is accomplishing with students, empowering them to participate in telling their own story, and creating meaningful connections to their unique interests. Through his work at Summer Dreamers he has created a number of websites, wiki pages, and blogs that serve to highlight the accomplishments of our campers. Finally, Mr. Rauterkus is skilled at creating connections between organizations, to create networks of support for youth. He has been successful at registering Summer Dreamers Academy campers in the Liberty Mile Road Race, including earning each participant a new pair of athletic shoes, and was able to coordinate a unique meet-and-greet with Olympic athletes as part of the experience.

As I review the attributes of a successful Remake Learning project, each of the four criteria are embodied by Mr. Rauterkus' programming. He values collaboration, promotes access for all young people, actively engages youth, and designs meaningful and impactful experiences. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Best,



Christine Cray
Director of Student Services Reforms

