

## U Prep Summer Learning Opportunities to Mitigate the “Corona Slide”

*By LaTasha Goodall, Principal, University Prep Science & Math Middle School*

Many studies over the years have shown that kids can lose some of the knowledge they've gained over the summer if they are not regularly engaging in learning activities. One study from University of Colorado Boulder found that students from grades 2-9 lost an average of 25-30 percent of their school year's learnings over the summer.

We are referring to this year's decline in academic skills as the “Corona Slide” – a learning loss similar to the annual “summer slide” phenomena, but worse. Because of the extended time away from traditional classroom instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely some students struggled to learn from home. Bridging the learning gap will be an even greater challenge, as learning loss is expected to affect both high achieving students and those who are already at risk of meeting grade level expectations.

To combat the corona slide, and regardless whether a scholar is in good academic standing, U Prep has opened its Virtual Summer Learning programs to any student looking for enrichment and to catch up on any learning they missed during these past few months. From July 13-August 7, more than 120 students who registered – up from our usual 30 students – will participate in live instruction via Zoom from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The three-hour virtual classes will be divided into two parts: STEM, which will include math and science instruction; and then Humanities, which will include ELA and social studies. The start times have been pushed back from its regular 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to coincide with students' irregular sleep patterns that have developed over the past few months. In addition to the two-hour instruction, small group breakout sessions and one-on-one tutoring to students who need it rounds out the daily schedule.

For parents who missed the deadline to register their children for the summer learning program, there are several ways to make sure your kids do not fall victim to the Corona Slide. A few suggestions we have are to have them read for at least 15 minutes each day (studies have shown it is enough to keep them on track), encourage them to keep a journal of their daily activities or take them on fun, educational trips to the zoo, a museum or a national park.

U Prep teachers and administrators have done a great job with the continuity of education without the benefits of a classroom setting during these past few months. We are grateful to the 12 teachers throughout the U Prep school system who jumped at the opportunity to participate in this year's virtual summer school program. Through our four-week program, students will have the opportunity to be more prepared for the next grade level in the fall.



## **LATASHA GOODALL**

### ***Principal of University Prep Science & Math Middle School***

LaTasha Kaye Goodall is an experienced educational leader on all academic levels. She is one of the founding teachers for University Prep Academy–Mark Murray Campus and currently entering her third year as principal of University Prep Science & Math Middle School.

Goodall earned her undergraduate degree in Language Arts and minor in Social Studies for grades K-8 from Eastern Michigan University. At the time, she was the only African American female in the Eastern Michigan University Honors College. Later she went on to obtain her master's degree in K-12 administration.

After spending time as a classroom teacher, Goodall was then called to leadership as an Assistant Principal and Principal in the city of Detroit. She was also an adjunct professor in the College of Education at Madonna University, preparing future teachers for the classroom. Following her time in a leadership role at a middle school in Atlanta, Goodall returned to Detroit to serve in her current position.