Summer Highlights

You will shine brightly wherever you go, and whenever you feel a pinch of doubt, remember this moment. You all have so much to look forward to, and so does the world, because Steppingstone Scholars will be in it.

The Road to College

College Launch

Scholars who graduated high school in the Class of 2015 set out for campuses across the country in August and September. This year, for the first time, Steppingstone Scholars can be found starting college at every Ivy League school. Hundreds more are studying at some of other colleges and universities across the United States.

Boot Camp

Steppingstone offered rising high school seniors a range of workshops as part of the summer "boot camp." Scholars preparing to apply to college learned about SAT prep, writing essays, completing applications, building their college lists, interviewing, and visiting campuses.

We are Here Today

Steppingstone’s 24th annual DreamStart College Tour gave 12 Scholars an inside look at eight campuses this summer, in a whirlwind four-day, three-night, 750-mile trip, led by an instructor team of Steppingstone Scholars. The group visited Boston College, Cornell University, Syracuse University, Union College, College of Charleston, Renison Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Williams College. They traveled in three vans and logged 3,470 miles, mostly Steppingstone Alumni. A day to remember, it was a perfect start. Check out the video below to see where this year’s freshman unpacked.

Fictional Alumnae from upper left: Whitney Delaney ’15 enjoying her work as a teaching assistant in the College Success Academy this summer; David Tweet ’12 and his family participating in Steppingstone College Boot Camp in recent years; Ashley Rosner, and Aneeta Goyal, class of 2009, "scholars" between campuses to college; Soyeh Farzadin ’15 with her family in Brooklyn, New York; The Point - Jade Camci, Class of 2014; Scholars in The Steppingstone Academy, Johnscrub Outdoor Education right - Dominque Uwakwo, Sydney Anderson, Samantha Strother, all Class of 2014

Commemoration

At an August ceremony on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Scholars completing their studies in The Steppingstone Academy marked the beginning of a new phase in their journeys to college. They rallied in tandem with more than 200 different independent, Catholic, and public exam classes this fall. Forty Scholars — Jordan Adrian, Richard Tan, Kalin Mendez, and Obinna Caldeiron — were among the students who offered words of appreciation and congratulations to the class. Alumni and newly appointed board member Jeanne Jacobs ’98 also addressed those gathered. (See above excerpt.)

Lindsey Dzwonkoski received the first annual Kelly Glenn Award, a distinction inaugurated this year in honor of Steppingstone President Glenn 20 years of service to the organization. The award recognizes academic excellence and character.

SIX weeks of 750 hours LEARNING

123 Steppingstone Scholars completed their summer in August

> Making ice cream in science class while discussing students’ academic reactions.
> Learning about peer support in small study groups.
> Playing “I Am.”
> Singing as a way to build large group cohesion.
>_timing test*
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>*Timing test*
From the Teacher’s Desk

James Lunsford has been teaching for nearly 5 years. A member of the upper school faculty at Milton Academy, he has spent the last six summers teaching science at The Steppingstone Foundation. We asked him why he devotes his summers to introducing the scientific method to Steppingstone Scholars.

What is it about Steppingstone that is distinct or different from all the other places you’ve taught?

The most unique thing about teaching with Steppingstone is that you get to work with 10-year-olds and 11-year-olds who eagerly want to go into college. Many of them are Steppingstone Americans, and the fact that they can be thinking about something that is eight years in the future and why they’re focused on it is incredibly inspiring.

This is in your sixth summer. What keeps you coming back?

For me, as a high school teacher at Milton Academy the rest of the year, Steppingstone scholars represent a different age group, coming from very different educational and family backgrounds, so teaching them offers me a challenge. I encounter kids who are truly focused learners, but have not had a lot of exposure to science. It’s exciting to introduce them to the subject. And several of the scholars I have taught as middle-schoolers have ended up in the halls of Milton Academy in high school. That’s gratifying to see.

What are your favorite things about teaching with Steppingstone?

Almost everything is fabulous! The faculty talks during Community Time are great. I love the interns and my students both begin and end the summer feeling that the summer was valuable. I’m happy that I’m able to get to know each scholar.

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Going Global

After more than two decades, Steppingstone remains rooted in Boston, but its influence and Alumni have begun to reach across the world, carrying a piece of the mission with them.

Consider the example of Regina Yohannes Abigaile Gebren, ’05, who served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and then returned to Boston as a Peace Corps Volunteer in 2019. “She has been a role model for many,” says Regina’s sister, Satuma, who led the fundraising through this event to send children to her mother’s home city of Addis Ababa. A graduate of Boston Latin School, Brandon, and Boston University, Satuma teaches at TechBamn Academy in Addis Ababa during the school year.

“I know I wanted to go back to Haiti some day, but I didn’t want to go back empty-handed,” says Regina, who decided a bit of Steppingstone might be what Haiti needed. Like Steppingstone, ETE offers summer programs that strengthen the academic and personal-emotional skills of motivated students. Committed to preparing the most vulnerable youth in Haiti to step into future leadership, the camp enrolled more than 120 students this summer.

It was in Steppingstone-like,” observes Regina, a Haitian American currently in her senior year at Newton County Day School. Along with Shamsy’s sister, Gabriella, who studies at Columbia University, Regina spent a good part of July helping sixty-11-year-olds improve their English skills.

“This is Esther, the sweetest girl you’ll ever meet,” Regina says, showing a picture of a smiling 11-year-old on her phone. “Living in America, it’s easy to think that people living in a third world country can’t be happy, can’t be enjoying life, she feels. But they are. I thought I would go there to teach them and help them be happier, but it turned out they taught me. They made me happy.”

“We’re just passing forward what we received,” Satuma explains. “Steppingstone gave us what we needed to be successful, and we’re putting it on.” ETE marked its fifth summer of operations this year.

The whole experience made me realize that to know what background you come from, there’s always a way to help yourself and pursue your dreams,” says Regina. And sometimes there are people, like Shamsy and Regina and Gabriella, working to help you achieve them.

For more information about ETE, visit www.eteinfo.com.