

# OSSM Offers Summer Programs For Middle, High School Students

The Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) announced today the return of summer in-person science and math workshops for middle and high school students.

Classes will be offered on a variety of days and include both residential and day options.

“Part of OSSM’s mission is to serve as a catalyst for advancing STEM education in Oklahoma,” said Frank Wang, Ph.D., president of OSSM. “Our summer workshops and programs provide opportunities for hands-on instruction in a fun, educational environment. We welcome students from anywhere in the state to be on our campus for these unique classes.”

The summer series begins in June with free math workshops for rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

The one-day events will be offered from June 13-15, June 20-22 and June 27-29

and feature different math skills. Students may enroll in one or all nine of the workshops, and all materials including lunch are included.

For high school students, OSSM offers Summer Academies with both math and science classes as well as humanities offerings. These week-long residential programs are taught by the school’s nationally renowned faculty and include field trips and evening activities. Cost is \$975 for each camp, and scholarships are available. The academies will be held from July 10-15 and July 17-22.

## About OSSM

Nationally ranked as a top public high school in the United States, OSSM provides a college-level, academically advanced curriculum in science and mathematics to juniors and seniors across the state. For more information, call (405) 521-6436 or visit the website at [www.ossm.edu](http://www.ossm.edu).



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**Your Turn**  
Dan Little  
Guest columnist

# Bill can improve health, education outcomes for kids

Oklahoma is home to the finest corporations, higher-education institutions and medical facilities, bolstered by a vibrant workforce and supportive community. However, childhood obesity poses a serious threat to our future economy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020, Oklahoma had the ninth-highest obesity prevalence in the nation.

COVID-19 led to school closures, disrupted routines, increased stress and reduced opportunities for physical activity among youths. A Cooper Institute published study demonstrated the impact of COVID-19 on physical activity nationwide. Of respondents, 79% reported their students were “Significantly Less” or “Somewhat Less” physically active during school closures. Decrease in physical activity puts our children at increased risk for obesity and other health-related outcomes. A Journal of the American Medical Association study found that the portion of students between 5 and 11 who are considered overweight increased to 45.7%, compared to 36.2% pre-pandemic, with a 5.2% increase for those between 12 and 15, and a 3.1% jump for those ages 16 and 17.

Oklahoma has the opportunity to improve the health and education of our children by enacting House Bill 2381, which requires the implementation of a statewide physical fitness assessment in grades 3-12. This bill helps leaders prioritize health interventions and provide students, parents and educators with the tools to encourage lifelong physical activity and fitness.

Oklahoma strives to be a top 10 state – not a top 10 obese state. Oklahoma lawmakers should send HB 2381 to the governor’s desk for his signature, which will create a healthy workforce, reduce health care cost and ensure a healthy Oklahoma.

*Dan Little serves as chairman of [Oklahoma School of Science](#) and Mathematics, as lifetime member of the Sarkeys Foundation Board of Directors, and on the boards of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy.*



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