



2026 Buxton-Pine Cobble Immersion Summer Camps

A Progressive School Partnership: Buxton School & Pine Cobble School

Week 1: June 29 – July 2, 2026

Baking Camp | *Instructor: Carol Butler* | **Ages 8–10**

Get ready to mix, measure, and make delicious memories! Our one-week Baking Camp is designed especially for aspiring young bakers who love getting hands-on in the kitchen. Throughout the week, campers will learn foundational baking skills while creating a variety of sweet and savory treats from scratch.

Each day focuses on building confidence and kitchen know-how. Campers will learn proper measuring techniques and kitchen safety to mixing methods, decorating skills, and teamwork. They will also explore recipes such as muffins, cookies, quick breads, cupcakes, and more, while discovering the science behind baking and the creativity that makes each recipe unique.

Whether your child is brand new to baking or already loves helping in the kitchen, this camp offers a fun, supportive environment to grow skills, spark creativity, and enjoy plenty of sweet success!

 **Location:** Buxton Kitchen

Make Your Own Utopia | *Instructor: Rafael* | **Ages 11–14**

What do you need to make a society? How would you design a better world? In this camp, you will learn about some of the basic elements of human societies, and you will set about imagining and designing your own city, country or world. Working individually and in groups, we will design our imagined worlds by making maps, city plans, architectural models and political systems. We will bring these worlds to life by making artifacts like newspaper pages, coins and money, alphabets, and national anthems. Campers will get to lean into their favorite forms of creativity, from visual art to creative writing to music, as we build our perfect (or not-so-perfect!) worlds.

 **Location:** PC Science Room

Ceramics (Half Days) | *Instructor: Julia* | **Ages 6–10**

The Ceramics summer camp will introduce campers to clay through tiles, coil pots, sculpture, and glazing. They will have a chance to express their creativity while being guided through these techniques through structured demonstrations, hands-on lessons, and fun prompts. Learning will happen both indoors and outdoors, making full use of a well-equipped studio and taking advantage of a beautiful Berkshires summer by engaging with the landscape in our art projects.

 **Location:** PC Art Building

 **Song Writing** | *Instructor: Geoffrey/BeatNest* | **Ages 8-12**

Campers step into the role of songwriter and create their own songs from start to finish! They'll write lyrics, record vocals, and produce beats—perfect for young artists who love to sing, write, and create.

 **Location:** PC Music Building

Week 2: July 6 – July 10, 2026

 **Multicultural Fusion Dance** | *Instructor: Anna Mayta* | **Ages 8-10**

Explore the world through movement in this vibrant week of Fusion Dance! Campers will travel across cultures through Flamenco, Classical Indian, West African, Latin, and Modern dance, learning foundational steps, rhythms, and the stories behind each tradition. Each day focuses on a different style, weaving together movement, music, costumes, and history to reveal the surprising connections between cultures. Along the way, campers will develop their own choreography and learn a group fusion phrase, both of which will be performed in a family showcase at the end of the week. Expect lots of music, props, creativity, and joy. No experience required, just bring your curiosity and your feet.

 **Location:** Pine Cobble

 **Writing the World** | *Instructor: Scott Hunter* | **Ages 11-14**

In “Writing the World,” students will experiment with poetry, short fiction, personal narrative, and more. Through playful exercises, genre-bending challenges, and daily readings, young writers will explore new ways of seeing the world and representing it on the page. We will walk in the woods near Pine Cobble, recording our observations to generate poetry. We will spend some time with paintings at The Clark, seeing what kinds of stories we can draw out of them. As a group, we will experiment with a few silly and fun modes of collaboration. Most importantly, we will aim to use language joyfully, with a sense of imagination and play.

 **Location:** PC Science Room

 **Comics & Cartooning** | *Instructor: Rafael* | **Ages 11-14**

In this camp, we will be doing a deep dive into comics, cartooning, and other forms of visual storytelling. We will explore a little bit about the history of comics, from ancient picture-stories to newspaper cartoons to superhero comics to manga to graphic novels; we will use these discoveries to get our own ideas. You will learn new skills in drawing and cartooning, including designing unique characters, drawing body language and facial expression, and creating dynamic panel and page designs. We will explore different mediums for making comics, from pencils, pen and ink to watercolor, painting and collage. We will learn about designing comic booklets and zines; by the end of camp, you will have multiple self-published comics to share with the world.

📍 **Location:** PC Art Building

Week 3: July 13 – July 17, 2026

■ **Roots & Rhythms: African Dance and Music Adventures (HALF DAYS: 12:00–3:00 PM) | Instructor: Noel Staples | Ages 8–10**

In this high-energy dance adventure, campers explore African and Caribbean rhythms through movement, music, songs, and stories. Together we'll dance, try call-and-response chants, and create our own joyful movements while learning how dance brings people together across cultures. This program is all about fun, creativity, and community. No dance experience needed—just bring your curiosity and your dancing feet!

📍 **Location:** Pine Cobble MPR

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📍 **Location:** PC Science Room

■ **Music Production | Instructor: Geoffrey/BeatNest | Ages 11–14**

In this camp, kids will learn the ins and outs of music production, from writing their own original music to experimenting with sounds and even creating remixes. By the end of the class, they will have several projects to take home and show off.

📍 **Location:** PC Music Building

Week 4: July 20 – July 24, 2026

■ **DJ-ing | Instructor: Geoffrey/BeatNest | Ages 11–14**

Campers become DJs in this hands-on experience where they learn how to mix songs, use real DJ gear, and build their own mini DJ sets. From beatmatching to transitions, students explore different styles and gain confidence performing their music.

📍 **Location:** PC Music Building

Guitar (Half Days: 9:00-11:00 AM) | Instructor: Jamie | Ages 9-14

Get ready to rock! This week-long half-day camp is a fun, hands-on dive into all things guitar with Jamie. Whether you've never touched a guitar or you've been strumming for a while, these group lessons are designed to meet you right where you are.

Campers will work through single notes, basic notation, tablature, open chords, and multi-part songs, and will also learn how to figure out their favorite songs on their own using online resources, a skill that keeps you playing long after camp ends. Along the way, we'll explore the history and culture of acoustic and electric guitar across genres, from folk and blues to rock and beyond.

The week closes with a short performance on the final day. All campers are encouraged to bring their own guitar; both acoustic and electric are welcome, and electric guitarists should bring a small amplifier.

 **Location:** Buxton Music Building

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 **Location:** PC Science Room

Week 5: July 27 – July 31, 2026

Multicultural Fusion Dance | Instructor: Anna Mayta | Ages 8-12

Explore the world through movement in this vibrant week of Fusion Dance! Campers will travel across cultures through Flamenco, Classical Indian, West African, Latin, and Modern dance, learning foundational steps, rhythms, and the stories behind each tradition. Each day focuses on a different style, weaving together movement, music, costumes, and history to reveal the surprising connections between cultures. Along the way, campers will develop their own choreography and learn a group fusion phrase, both of which will be performed in a family showcase at the end of the week. Expect lots of music, props, creativity, and joy. No experience required, just bring your curiosity and your feet.

 **Location:** Buxton School

Arts & Ceramics | Instructors: Julia & Alyssa | Ages 6-12

Dive into a world of creativity at our Arts and Ceramics Summer Camp. Whether you're new to art making or already have some experience, this camp is the perfect place to develop your artistic skills and express yourself.

Campers will get hands-on experience with a variety of art mediums, from painting and printmaking to ceramics and sculpture.

The ceramics portion of the camp will focus on fun, beginner-friendly techniques, such as hand-building, coil pots, pinch pots, and basic glazing. While older kids may have the option to try wheel throwing, younger campers will focus on creating unique, textured pieces by hand, which is both accessible and exciting for all skill levels.

The studio art portion of the camp will offer kids the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, printmaking, and textiles, with a focus on block printing, eco-printing, and non-toxic botanical dyes. As we explore different ways to transform paper, fabric, and other surfaces, we will explore the unique possibilities of materials and pigments derived from nature.

📍 **Location:** Buxton Art Complex

🟡 **Space Explorers** | *Instructor: Rafael* | **Ages 8–14**

Are you fascinated by the planets in our solar system, the stars in the night sky, and the mysteries of outer space? Do you like to think about futuristic technology and imagine deep space travel? Do you want to imagine the possibilities of life on other planets and even alien civilizations?

In this camp experience, you will learn about our sun and solar system, as well as new findings about distant stars and the exoplanets that orbit these other suns. We will make realistic paintings of planets, drawings based on constellations, and other space-inspired art. We will also look at science fiction and current theories in astrobiology to imagine alien biology and interplanetary societies. We will make drawings of aliens, sculptures and designs for alien technology, and maybe even our own collaborative sci-fi movie. Come explore space through art and imagination!

📍 **Location:** Pine Cobble

🟦 **Theatre @ Buxton** | *Instructor: Emily* | **Ages 5–10**

Get ready to play, create, and take the stage! This fun, energetic camp is the perfect introduction to theatre for kids. Through theatre games, improv exercises, puppets, masks, and even stage combat, campers will build confidence, creativity, and stage presence throughout the week. By Friday, it all comes together in a short performance, whether that's a one-act play or a children's book brought to life. No experience necessary, just a big imagination and willingness to jump in and give it a go!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Theater

🟩 **Beginner Cooking & Baking** | *Instructor: Aliah* | **Ages 6–9**

Get ready to cook, bake, and explore! This hands-on camp takes young chefs from garden to table with harvesting fresh ingredients, learning basic cooking skills, and creating delicious treats. We'll experiment with spices, master kitchen safety, whip up simple recipes, and spend plenty of time outside. Whether you're brand new to cooking or ready to level up, this camp is all about making friends, having fun, and getting comfortable in the kitchen!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Kitchen

■ **The Sun as Your Lens and The Natural World** | *Instructor: Daniele* | **Ages 10–14**

Step out of the darkroom and into the light for a week of experimental, hands-on image-making. We will skip the cameras and work directly with the landscape to capture the "shadows" of the world around us. Using the sun as our primary light source, we will explore the poetic and scientific magic of cyanotypes, lumen prints, and site-specific photograms. Over five days, we will:

- **Forage & Compose:** Wander the outdoors to collect natural specimens, found objects, and translucent materials to use as our "negatives."
- **Harness the Elements:** Learn to coat paper with light-sensitive emulsions and use UV rays to "cook" images directly on the ground.
- **Play with Process:** Experiment with "wet" cyanotypes using soap suds and botanical toners, and watch silver gelatin paper shift through a spectrum of colors in the open air.
- **Collaborate with Nature:** Create large-scale, collective "shadow-maps" that record the movement of the sun and silhouettes of the environment.

This class offers a tactile, low-tech way to see the world with fresh eyes. By the end of the week, you'll walk away with a portfolio of unique, ethereal prints that are literally made of sunshine and shadows.

📍 **Location:** Buxton Campus

Week 6: August 3 – August 7, 2026

■ **Roots & Rhythms: African Dance and Music Adventures (HALF DAYS: 12:00–3:00 PM)** | *Instructor: Noel Staples* | **Ages 8–10**

In this high-energy dance adventure, campers explore African and Caribbean rhythms through movement, music, songs, and stories. Together we'll dance, try call-and-response chants, and create our own joyful movements while learning how dance brings people together across cultures. This program is all about fun, creativity, and community. No dance experience needed—just bring your curiosity and your dancing feet!

📍 **Location:** Pine Cobble MPR

■ **Speak Out: Arts & Activism** | *Instructor: Rafael* | **Ages 9–13**

What do you want to say, and how do you want to say it? In this camp, we will look at the role that art can play in the struggle to make the world a better place. Each day, we will spend some time looking at historical and contemporary examples of political art, including protest signs, posters, murals, puppets, performance art, and video. We will learn different techniques within multiple mediums to make stencils, banners, T-shirts, posters, zines, sculptures, and more, as well as tactics and strategies for using art as a political tool. We will spend time exploring the issues you care about, learn about youth movement-building and organizing for social justice, and seeking the best ways to use your art to change the world.

📍 **Location:** Buxton School

■ **Choreography & Modern Dance** | *Instructor: Anna Mayta* | **Ages 8–12**

In this weeklong camp, students will explore modern dance and improvisation as tools for creating their own original choreography. Through movement games, creative exercises, and collaborative process, campers will develop dance pieces that are entirely their own, building on core skills like balance, turning, jumping, and recovery along the way. We'll also dig into the history of dance, experiment with music and props, and explore how spontaneous movement becomes intentional performance. The week closes with a family showcase where campers share what they've made. No experience necessary, just a willingness to move, create, and surprise yourself.

📍 **Location:** Buxton School

■ **Arts & Ceramics** | *Instructors: Julia & Alyssa* | **Ages 6–12**

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■ **Theatre @ Buxton** | *Instructor: Emily* | **Ages 5–10**

Get ready to play, create, and take the stage! This fun, energetic camp is the perfect introduction to theatre for kids. Through theatre games, improv exercises, puppets, masks, and even stage combat, campers will build confidence, creativity, and stage presence throughout the week. By Friday, it all comes together in a short performance, whether that's a one-act play or a children's book brought to life. No experience necessary, just a big imagination and willingness to jump in and give it a go!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Theater

Week 7: August 10 – August 14, 2026

■ **Gamers Rise Up** | *Instructor: Moon* | **Ages 8–11**

This camp will explore the core idea: what makes a game *fun*? We will play various games together - ranging from PE games and sports like tag and pickleball, to group games like Mafia and Ninja, to board games like Ransom Notes, Coup, and One Night Werewolf. After playing these games, we will work together to discuss what makes them fun, then tweak them to create our own

versions of that kind of game by playing them together. The goal is to leave camp with a greater sense of being able to create your own games to play with others!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Library

■ **Photography & Cyanotypes** | *Instructors: Katherine & JP* | **Ages 10–14**

Step into the darkroom and discover the magic of light. In this hands-on camp, Katherine and JP '25 will guide campers through the beautiful, experimental world of alternative photography and screen printing.

Campers will head outside to forage for flowers, leaves, and other plant material, then bring their finds back to the studio to create one-of-a-kind cyanotypes and photograms. These camera-less processes work by layering objects directly onto light-sensitive paper and letting the sun or enlarger light do the rest. This process is part science, part art, and entirely your own. From there, campers will have the opportunity to explore the world of screenprinting, learning how to transfer images and patterns onto fabric and paper using techniques that can turn any idea or image into something tangible.

This camp flows between the outdoors and the studio, between the natural world and the printed page. Every camper leaves with a collection of their own work, driven entirely by their own curiosity and imagination.

No previous experience or camera required.

📍 **Location:** Buxton Photo Studio

■ **Theatre @ Buxton** | *Instructor: Emily* | **Ages 7-12**

Get ready to play, create, and take the stage! This fun, energetic camp is the perfect introduction to theatre for kids. Through theatre games, improv exercises, puppets, masks, and even stage combat, campers will build confidence, creativity, and stage presence throughout the week. By Friday, it all comes together in a short performance, whether that's a one-act play or a children's book brought to life. No experience necessary, just a big imagination and willingness to jump in and give it a go!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Theater

■ **Advanced Cooking & Baking** | *Instructor: Aliah* | **Ages 10–13**

Take your skills to the next level. This small, intensive camp (six campers max) is designed for experienced young chefs ready to explore sophisticated cooking. You'll master complex techniques, experiment with flavor combinations, and prepare impressive multi-course meals. Perfect for older students with prior cooking experience, ready for a culinary challenge.

📍 **Location:** Buxton Kitchen

■ **Art & The Natural World** | *Instructor: Rafael* | **Ages 6–9**

For this weeklong workshop, we will be exploring a wide range of ways to respond to the natural world through art. We will observe plants, animals, and landscapes through drawing, watercolor, and photography; we will engage in printmaking and

collage using natural materials; we will create sculptures and ephemeral installations from plants, rocks, and soil. As we respond to our natural world as artists, we will also gain knowledge about local ecology as scientists and stewards of the land, learning to identify plant species, forest succession, and animal habitats. Needless to say, we will be spending much of our time outdoors in the beautiful woods and trails around the Buxton campus!

📍 **Location:** Buxton Woods

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📍 **Location:** Pine Cobble MPR

Week 8: August 17 – August 21, 2026

■ **Return of the Puppets! | Instructor: Dave | Ages 9-13**

Dive into the hilarious world of soft-sculpture rod-puppets and object storytelling with New England Puppet Arts' David Lane. Campers will sketch, design, pattern, and stitch a fleece-style puppet of their own imagination and then hit the boards to explore how it moves and what stories it has to tell. Together, the group will fashion an original puppet drama script to be performed at the end of the week in the amazing Buxton Barn Theater.

📍 **Location:** Buxton School

■ **¡Sin miedo al éxito! Mini Spanish Immersion | Instructor: Margarita | Ages 7-10**

Unlike traditional Spanish or any other language classes that focus on grammar and worksheets. Our focus in this program is to be immersed in Spanish by learning about Hispanic culture in Latin America. We'll dive into the twentieth-century Mexican *Muralismo* movement, where we'll practice making murals and playing around with different painting techniques; listen to music such as Cumbia, Nueva Canción, reggaeton, and more; and make food together from Latin America. Interwoven into these lessons will be learning about the history of Spanish-speaking Latin American countries.

📍 **Location:** Buxton School

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📍 **Location:** Buxton Campus

Camp Hours

- **Hours:** Camps typically run from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, with select Half-Day options (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM or 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM).

Meet Our Talented Faculty

Get to know the incredible artists, educators, and makers who bring our summer programs to life!

- **Scott Hunter** Scott is a writer, musician, and educator who teaches in the humanities at Buxton School. He earned his MFA in Creative Writing at UC Davis and answers to a dog named Otis.
- **Noel Staples (Sister Noel)** A master teaching artist and cultural ambassador of African-rooted dance and music. She is the founder of Uprising Dance Theatre and the Berkshire African Dance & Drum (BADD) Collective.
- **Julia (they/them)** The ceramics teacher at Buxton School, Julia is a nationally recognized recipient of the International Ceramics Sculpture award. They have also taught courses on color theory and literature and love taking walks with their dog, Ziggy.
- **Rafael (he/him)** An artist and art teacher based in North Adams with over ten years of experience teaching at schools such as Phillips Andover Academy. He enjoys exploring many mediums, including sculpture, painting, and animation.
- **Daniele Frazier (she/her)** A Cooper Union School of Art graduate, Daniele is an artist whose public artworks and sculptures explore ecology and natural history. She lives in Hudson, NY, where she keeps a small flock of chickens.
- **David Lane (he/him)** A North Adams-based theatre maker and painter who teaches wooden puppet carving at MASS MoCA. He is the co-director of the New England Puppet Intensive.
- **Katherine Finkelstein (she/her) & JP (he/him)**
Katherine is a working artist, photographer, and former Buxton faculty member who runs Motherbox Gallery in Brooklyn. **JP '25** is a Buxton alum currently studying history at Kenyon College with a deep passion for art and music.
- **Anna Mayta (she/her)** A choreographer and dance improviser with over 20 years of international experience. She is the founder and director of Mayta Fusion Dance Company.
- **Alyssa (she/her)** A Williamstown-based artist and educator who specializes in printmaking, textiles, and craft practices that collaborate with the natural world.
- **Margarita (she/her)** Buxton's Associate Director of Residential Programming and a Buxton alum. She is a heritage Spanish speaker who has worked as a translator and led language workshops for all ages.

- **Moon (she/her)** A faculty member at Buxton who teaches Algebra, Calculus, and Data & Statistics. She also leads immersive programs on board games and color theory.
- **Aliah (she/her)** Buxton's beloved baker, Aliah provides sweet treats for the community year-round and creates a warm, welcoming atmosphere in the campus kitchen.