The seven days of summer, when months of school have given way to a break, are too short for some. This storybook scene is not the reality, however, for many students who are already beginning to think about their fall and the risk of dropping out.

Learning during the summer is extremely likely to help keep students at school and out of trouble. "Summer slide," in which critical learning gained during the academic year is lost because of a lack of mental challenges, is a common problem. This leaves students a step behind their peers when they return to school in the fall.

"Summer-learning loss accounts for about two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap in reading," according to the website summerlearning.org.

"Disadvantaged youth barely maintain their education levels while their more well-off counterparts slip away," according to the website.

To take advantage of the Wooden Floor in Santa Ana, contact them.

"Lower-income students who have parents that work sometimes two to three jobs have a lot of downtime in front of the TV or they might end up in the community where they can get into trouble," said, "They are not being challenged physically or mentally."

Renee said families with higher income can provide access to camps and activities, so the children don't experience academic reversal.

But passionate educators and nonprofit leaders are rallying to fill the gap.

Summer Matters, headquartered that the state superintendent of public instruction, is the first statewide campaign aimed at broadening quality summer education for all students. And here in Orange County, a number of nonprofit organizations provide innovative summer education programs, including standouts like The Wooden Floor and Girls Inc.

The Wooden Floor was founded in 1985. Each year, it gives hundreds of underserved local children the opportunity for an intensive, long-term dance education supported by academic and family services aimed at helping students realize their full potential. Included in their academic curriculum is a five-week summer workshop in reading, math and sciences to maintain academic performance.

The Wooden Floor's results have been profound. Since 2005, 100 percent of its participants have graduated high school on time and have pursued higher education.

Orange County is also home to a thriving chapter of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1994, the Costa Mesa-based Girls Inc. of Orange County has been inspiring girls ages 6 to 18 to develop all facets of their character and strength, with programs such as Eureka.

"It's a year-round series for middle school girls that includes specific curricula to help girls develop a sense of self by exploring what it means to be a "strong, smart and bold" girl," said Joyy Santana, CEO of Girls Inc. of Orange County. "The summer segment includes class work on local college campuses."

During summer, The Wooden Floor offers 52 dance classes a week for its students, in addition to arts and crafts workshops and field trips. Pictured here, high school-age dancers rehearse in The Wooden Floor's studio.

Volunteers Are Needed!!!!

Ride Your Horse Therapeutic Riding Program

Ride your horse, enjoy a day in the sun and make a difference in the world.

Weekly volunteers are needed to provide quality equestrian assisted activities to persons with disabilities and encourage self-growth through physical, cognitive, social, emotional and educational benefits.

17780 Avenida Blvd, Corona, CA 92879 (714) 393-3932

Men’s Retreats

Men’s retreats are for men of all ages and backgrounds who are searching for spiritual growth.

17288 Orange Ave, Corona, CA 92881

Assist Adopt and Shop

Found Animals Foundation

Found Animals is recruiting volunteers to assist us with our Feral Animal Home located at the Lancaster Care Center. Volunteers will assist with animal care for both cats and dogs.

17288 Orange Ave, Corona, CA 92881

Alzheimer’s Family Services Center

Alzheimer’s Family Services Center is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with Alzheimer’s disease and their families. Activities are designed to engage our participants and help them with Alzheimer’s disease and their families. Please call us at (949) 363-0900 or email info@alfsc.org.

American Family Housing

American Family Housing is an organization that provides emergency, transitional, and permanent affordable housing, as well as counseling and life-skills training, to homeless and low-income individuals and families, including those facing eviction. "Housing First" is our guiding principle. We believe that every person deserves a chance to live in a safe, secure home. To learn more about American Family Housing, please call us at (949) 363-0900 or email info@alfsc.org.

American Family Housing

American Family Housing is an organization that provides emergency, transitional, and permanent affordable housing, as well as counseling and life-skills training, to homeless and low-income individuals and families, including those facing eviction. "Housing First" is our guiding principle. We believe that every person deserves a chance to live in a safe, secure home. To learn more about American Family Housing, please call us at (949) 363-0900 or email info@alfsc.org.

American Family Housing

American Family Housing is an organization that provides emergency, transitional, and permanent affordable housing, as well as counseling and life-skills training, to homeless and low-income individuals and families, including those facing eviction. "Housing First" is our guiding principle. We believe that every person deserves a chance to live in a safe, secure home. To learn more about American Family Housing, please call us at (949) 363-0900 or email info@alfsc.org.