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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMIT54 SUMMER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM BEGINS ON MONDAY, JUNE 20TH
NEW PROGRAM SITE AT ROSS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Summit54 is pleased to announce that the 501c3 and its partners Roaring Fork School District and Ross Montessori School will welcome 650 elementary students on Monday for five weeks of academic and life enrichment programming M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students from all 13 elementary school in the Lower Valley were invited to attend the District sponsored program at Basalt Elementary School, Crystal River School and Glenwood Elementary School.

The Ross Montessori School program is operating for Montessori rising first through seventh grade students.

The award-winning Summer Advantage program generates an average 2+ month gain in math and reading during the five-week program. Without access to a high-quality summer academic program, students typically regress up to three months during the long break. (White, 1906; Heyns,1978; Cooper et al, 1996; Downey et al, 2004; Alexander, Entwisle & Olson, 2007). COVID-19-related learning loss combined with the usual summer slide is expected to have ripple effects for years to come, which makes this summer's program more important than ever.

Summit54 is now in its 10th consecutive year of providing FREE summer academic and life enrichment programming in the Roaring Fork Valley. During the summer of 2020, Summit54 provided programming for students in 23 unique locations using regional parks and other outdoor locations when schools were closed. The organization also began free after-school programming in 2020/21 to help local children who had fallen behind due to Covid-related school closures and the move to on-line learning. Summit54 will continue its free after-school small group tutoring program during the 2022/23 school year.

The RFS District and Ross Montessori both provide facilities, utilities, janitorial service, computers, internet access, IT support, food service, bus transportation, and parent and teacher outreach; and both contribute approximately 10-15% of the total fee paid to Summer Advantage USA for implementing its award-winning summer academic and life enrichment program at their school sites. Summit54 raises the balance of the annual program cost from local governmental bodies, foundations, businesses and generous full-time and part-time residents.

Historically, 84% of the District scholars enrolled are Latino; 76% are English Language Learners and 74% receive free and reduced lunch during the school year. “Our mission is to help bolster academic abilities among all elementary aged children in the Lower Roaring Fork Valley,” said Terri Caine, Founder and Executive Director of Summit54. “This program is successful because kids enjoy the program and think it is fun. The morning begins with breakfast in the classroom where educators strive to develop personal connections with their students, after breakfast, all classes use Focused Kids@ for a few minutes of engaging brain exercises to let go of stress and prepare the brain to learn, then we have two hours of literacy and one hour of math. We work hard to make learning fun with interactive games and small group interactions. With two educators per classroom of no more than 22 students, we provide a great deal of personal attention to every scholar. We also have a Spanish speaking educator in every classroom. The rest of the day includes a hot healthy lunch, outdoor recess, and two afternoon enrichment programs such as art, music, drama, dance, karate, and yoga M-Th. By ending the day with enriching and entertaining activities, the children go home remembering all the fun they had. We also promote the Friday field trips all week, building excitement for the conclusion of the week and leaving scholars with fond memories to savor through the weekend.”

For additional information about the program, please visit www.Summit54.org

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