LearningSpring is a place for children diagnosed on the autism spectrum to learn, to grow and to belong.
LEARNINGSRING SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

LearningSpring School for children diagnosed on the autism spectrum in grades K-8 is committed to advance the social, developmental and academic growth of its students through pioneering educational and therapeutic strategies in order to prepare each child to participate in the wider community.

OUR VISION

LEARNINGSRING challenges its students with an academic curriculum consistent with New York State Next Generation Learning Standards.

LEARNINGSRING engages its students with an innovative social skills curriculum based on current research and best practices.

LEARNINGSRING recognizes and nurtures each student’s unique gifts and talents.

LEARNINGSRING is a place where students learn in small cooperative groups facilitated by highly qualified and motivated teachers and therapists.

LEARNINGSRING uses a multi-disciplinary approach to address the particular social, organizational, emotional, sensory, motor, pragmatic language and academic needs and goals of each individual.

LEARNINGSRING will continue to collaborate with research institutions to develop optimal programs and share this information.

LEARNINGSRING builds a working partnership with families as an integral part of the school program.

LEARNINGSRING offers a supportive and eco-friendly environment that helps students grow into inquisitive and socially engaged individuals.
DEAR LEARNINGSpring COMMUNITY:

What unites us—committed trustees, devoted parents, generous friends of the school, and enthusiastic faculty and staff—is the vision we share to enrich the lives of children diagnosed on the autism spectrum. We are so grateful to the entire LearningSpring family for your unwavering support, which enables us to raise the revenue needed to bridge the gap between state funding and the real cost of educating our students. Together, through a strong Annual Fund campaign, we were able to raise more than $319,000, which exceeded our goal, and for the 11th year in a row, we achieved 100% participation from the Board of Trustees and parent body.

In addition to meeting our fiscal goals, we are thrilled with the continued trend of upward giving. Because of the continued generosity of the LearningSpring community, we are in a better position to thrive and grow as a school.

Not only do our trustees, parents, and friends provide financial support to the school, but you also tirelessly devote your time and talents to ensure that the cornerstones of LearningSpring remain steadfast. Because of your dedication, we are able to provide a dual academic and social skills curriculum, a hardworking and devoted faculty and staff, an ever-evolving and growing alumni association, and a strong program of parent education and support.

Members of our community keep their eyes and ears open to opportunities that will better our school and our children. One example of this astute awareness led to us securing Ken Langone, co-founder of The Home Depot and chairman of NYU Langone Health, as our honoree for the 2019 LearningSpring Blooms Annual Benefit and Spectrum Award. This event alone helped raise more than $380,000 for our school and programs.
Our students have their own dreams, and we strive to nurture those aspirations and show them that they are the masters of their experience. Through our diverse after-school programs, exciting trips, tailored curriculum, and special events, we work to enhance a love of life. The people our students meet, the food they taste, the music they enjoy, the cultures they admire, and the books they read show them what life has to offer.

As our students grow, we encourage their dreams and foster their ability to achieve them. This is not possible without you donating to our Annual Fund, soliciting auction items, rallying friends and family through social media, or attending our special events throughout the year. Your participation is integral to us achieving the goals set out in our mission. There are also many ways to get involved and become an active member of our community, such as seeking out opportunities for the school or joining one of our committees. We are excited for what is ahead, and we will need your help to make LearningSpring the best it can be.

We thank you for coming together and are grateful to you for doing your part during the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to seeing what our amazing LearningSpring community can accomplish in the year ahead.

James Snyder
President, Board of Trustees
Margaret Poggi
Head of School

Johanna Gohmann
Bellanne Weitz
Co-Chairs, Parent Association

We are excited for what is ahead, and we will need your help to make LearningSpring the best it can be.
Creativity and Innovation
At LearningSpring, we believe that for every unique student there is an equally unique approach. Each day is a new opportunity for creativity and innovation.
PUPPETRY
The art of puppetry is not lost here at LearningSpring. With the guidance of professional puppeteers, our students had the opportunity to develop their very own puppet shows. This program is great because it not only targets the development of flexible thinking skills and collaboration, but it also concludes with students performing their original shows to their peers and teachers. This VSA program was provided under a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL FILM FESTIVAL
Lights, camera, action! Our middle school students created short films about the important social skills they learned throughout the year, including organization, the art of compromising, and self-regulation. The films were presented at our annual Middle School Film Festival, where students not only hosted the event, but also collected tickets, served popcorn, and handed out programs just like at a real cinema. The middle schoolers viewed their finished products with pride and their peers and teachers especially enjoyed the blooper reel. The added bonus was that the social skills highlighted in the films were utilized to educate our lower school students.

NEW YEARS, NEW TRIES
Throughout the school year, our speech department worked with the Oak Class to conduct weekly lessons called, “New Years, New Tries.” The aim was to encourage these students to move outside their comfort zones by trying new things. In one lesson, the students brainstormed a variety of foods they would be interested in trying. During the next lesson, stations were set up with those foods. Students then explored by looking, smelling, licking, biting or actually trying them. They then documented their findings on a chart. Way to go, Oak!
LEARNINGSPRING SCHOOL VALUES

Positive and Nurturing Environment

LearningSpring is welcoming and inviting. We value people who love their jobs and who are committed to building a positive and nurturing environment for our students. We are passionate about what we do and are dedicated to the growth and education of every student.
RUNNING CLUB
In January, our Occupational Therapy (OT)/Physical Therapy (PT) Department launched its Running Club season. Three days a week, our young runners met in the gymnasium and started their school day by getting their hearts pumping and their legs moving, followed by relaxation exercises. Running Club helps our students regulate their bodies so they can begin their day alert and eager to learn. Great thinking, OT/PT.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS MOCK INTERVIEWS
Our Social Skills Department aims to ready graduating students for their next step beyond LearningSpring. One way is preparing students for the high school admission process via mock interviews. Our students practice speaking, observing, and listening to others, as well as providing critical feedback to their peers. Parents are also included in the process, receiving details about the mock interview process and ways students may practice at home. Our students confidently walk into their interviews with the skills and tools they need to succeed.

GIRLS LUNCH
LearningSpring is a place where all of our students can be themselves and meet new friends. One way is through a weekly Girls Lunch. It was created as a designated time for the girls of LSS to bond, as they are fewer in number than their male counterparts. Girls Lunch is filled with great conversation, lots of laughs, and of course, crafts, games, and toys—all ways to help our young ladies engage with and enjoy one another.
Collaboration

LearningSpring values working together—with each other, with each student, with each family and with the community. We value collaboration and integration in every area of our school.
SEQUOIA NEWSLETTER
LearningSpring students can be anything—including journalists! Working independently and collaboratively, the Sequoia Class published their very own newsletter. Their areas of interest included high school, comics, the stock market, movie reviews, celebrity gossip, and more. After conducting research, our students went on to develop their own articles. The paper was copy edited first by their Head Teacher, and then together as a class. Hot off the press, the finished newsletters were delivered to the entire school. Thanks for keeping us informed, Sequoia!

PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL
This year’s Playwriting Festival gave our students the opportunity to flex their creativity, teamwork, and writing muscles as they crafted their very own plays. These original plays were then performed by professional actors, who volunteered their time and talent, bringing our students’ works to life. Bravo to all of our budding playwrights—we can’t wait to see what you create next.

CLASS PROJECTS
There is no “I” in TEAM! Working together to create a class project can be fun, but also a wonderful lesson in teamwork and collaboration for our students. This year, each class worked together to develop a variety of beautiful pieces of artwork including a mosaic tile, painted mugs, homemade scented candles, and a customized tote bag. Each student used their individual talents to contribute to the creation of their class projects.
LEARNINGSPRING SCHOOL VALUES

Fun
LearningSpring believes in having FUN! We encourage each other to find and celebrate a good sense of humor.
GONOODLE
Go what? GoNoodle® is a website that provides our teachers with videos that get students moving with desk-side, short interactive activities and dances. Movement is a vital part of a LearningSpring school day, which is why “noodle breaks” are very popular. Infusing moments of movement and fun into the school day eases various kinds of emotions from nervousness to restlessness. Students look forward to these breaks when they can have fun dancing and laughing with their classmates.

PERIODIC TABLE BATTLESHIP
Learning and fun go hand in hand at LearningSpring. Students in the Redwood Class enjoyed playing Periodic Table Battleship™, a scientific spin on the classic board game. Each student had their own periodic table to place their “ships” on and took turns calling out different elements until they hit their opponent’s entire fleet. This game introduced the Periodic Table of Elements in a fun way, while instilling an early love for science.

OUT AND ABOUT
Out and About is a structured after-school program that provides students with opportunities to apply social and functional skills that are taught in school. Through their excursions to the New York Public Library, Chelsea Piers, the Museum of Illusions, and Rockefeller Center (to name a few), they have several opportunities to showcase their skills in real-world settings. During Out and About, New York City is our students’ classroom.
GRANTS

This list includes all program grants awarded to LearningSpring School from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. We thank all of our longtime supporters and welcome our new foundations. Your gifts are deeply appreciated.

Adolph & Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc. 
Goldman Sachs & Co. 
The Leon Lowenstein Foundation 
The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund 
The Plotkin Foundation

Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc. 
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 
The Michael Gordon Foundation, Inc. 
NEXT for AUTISM 
Target

FINANCIAL DATA 2018-2019

LearningSpring School is a New York State approved non-public school that receives funding by way of the New York City Department of Education. The funding does not cover the entire cost of LSS’ academic and social skills programs; therefore, a financial gap must be made up through the generous contributions of our supporters through several fundraising campaigns.

![Operating Revenue](chart1)

- Tuition and Fees: $6,008,663
- Contributions and Grants*: $1,099,463
- Investments and Other Income: $393,263
- IDEA Grant: $108,893

*In addition, LearningSpring School received $500,000 toward a $3.5 million multi-year pledge made in 2013.

![Operating Expense](chart2)

- Salaries and Benefits: $5,380,101
- Facilities: $474,302
- Program: $326,995
- Fundraising: $243,061
- Administration: $197,069

79% Operating Revenue

81.2% Operating Expense (excluding depreciation)
ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

The LSS Piggy Bank Initiative is an amazing example of student philanthropy. The collection of coins and dollars raised over $4,400 for the LearningSpring Annual Fund. Each of our students was given an LSS Piggy Bank to fill with coins, which they donated to LearningSpring. In addition to raising money for our school, our enterprising students learned about the value of money and the importance of saving and helping others.

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude the LSS parents, families, friends, foundations and corporations that contributed to the LearningSpring Annual Fund from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This year, for each of our students, the funding gap between what the NYC Department of Education provided and what LearningSpring actually spent was $13,080.

LEAF LEAGUE
$25,000+
Andrea and Patrick Esteruelas†
Carolyn* and David Kretz†
Thomas Delaney* and
Patrick Mullin†
Marilyn* and Jim Simons†
Esme Usdan and James Snyder†

TWIG COMMUNITY
$15,000+
Jennifer and Kraig DeMatteis†
Danielle Curi and Max Herrnstein†
Loren Edelson and Jeremy A. Katz†

*Board Member (as of July 1, 2018)
†Bridged the funding gap of $13,080 for at least one LSS student

BRANCH SPONSOR
$10,000+
Bank of America Matching Gift Program
Hanna and Matthew Foundation
Marisela and Cary Staller

TRUNK PATRON
$5,000+
Yi-Tien and Andy Chang
Sharon and Mark Chertok†
Masayo and Nicolas Douglas
Shari Freifeld
Goldman, Sachs & Co. Matching Gift Program
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Ann Thornton and Matthew Heyd
Eileen C. McGoldrick
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$2,500+
Assured Guaranty
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Theresa and Edward Faicco†
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Morgan Stanley
Misti Ushio* and Barclay Morrison†
Sandy and Stephen Perlinder
Brian Maloney and Stelian Serban
Linda Rothenberg Stein
Tracey Tiska* and Peter Tomlinson

Raphael Profit
Trace Seely
Nolan Serban-Maloney
Kayra Simsek
Jack Tricarico
Neil Wadhin
Trey Warren
Lila Weinberger
Bennett Weitz
William Won
Eli Yeung
Lucas Ziemer
Gabriel Zizila

The Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation
Andee and Michael Rupe
Ken* and Michael Tricarico
Denise and Stuart Zwerling†

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude the LSS parents, families, friends, foundations and corporations that contributed to the LearningSpring Annual Fund from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This year, for each of our students, the funding gap between what the NYC Department of Education provided and what LearningSpring actually spent was $13,080.
SAPLING SUPPORTER
$1,000+
Stephanie Appel
Hilda Aronson and Emma Bokman
Stacy and Lance Boge
Maile Carpenter
Bridge A. Bosworth and Jason M. Casella
Meredith and Rob Mills Cavalluzzo
Linda and Jimmy Ching
William Denlinger
Melanie Denzer
Patrick Denzer
First Eagle Investment Management Foundation
Drs. Gerry and Ruth Fischbach
Joanne and Steven Grosso
Maeve and Andrew Gyenes
Alma and Roy Hill
Mary and Richard Howard
Christopher Huttleston
Selma Huttleston
IBM International Foundation
Ivy Day School
Helene Jorgensen
Fanny and Khamsy Khowong
Tara Jo Litin
Roelien Weenink and Floris Lyppens
Judy and Stephen McGoldrick
McGraw-Hill Education
Susan and Michael Moss
Mei Chu and Gregory Ng*
Kimberly Nunez
James Phillips
Sheila and Daniel Riesel
Nicole Dewey and William Seely
Samuel Stanley Jr., M.D. and Ellen Li
Robin Stephenson*
Lillian Li and Ajay Wadhia
Cecily Chester and Michael Weinberger
Bellanne and William Weitz
Yeung Family
Stanley Yeung
Nicole and Steven Zizla

SEEDLING FRIEND
$500+
Amazon Smile Foundation
Judith Burns
Josh Korth and Ted Caine
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Kate Sinding Daly and Patrick Daly
Karen and Patrick Delle Cava
Peggy DeMatteis
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Amy Daley and Hari Krishnaswami
Yesenia Reyes and Miguel Leal
Melody and Saul Lee
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Microsoft Matching Gift & Giving Campaign
Carrie Moneymaker and Justin Morrison
Yami and Jason Palmer
Karen and Robin Park
Tina and Anthony Primiani
Sally Ann Jacobs* and Joel Quall
Dahiana Recio and Oswald Rodriguez
Carla Rogers-Henry
Cindy and Lawrence Sandak
Fabrice Seiman
Laura Mercedes-Silva and Maria Silva
Sharon Stecker
Melissa Stuke
John Sullivan
Ying Sun and Roger Yan
Jasmine and Lior Zangi

SEED CONTRIBUTOR
UP TO $499
Patricia Abrams
Lisa Ahmad
AIG Matching Grants Program
Angela Alfano
Fredie Alvarez
Susana Montes and Socrates Aquino
Ann Dowd and Lawrence Arancio
The Arrabito Family
Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
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Box Tops for Education
Johanna Gohmann and David Boyle
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Luvieiska Polanco and Matias Delsart
Suzanne and William D’emic
Laurel Douglas
Soukeyna Gueye and Amath Drame

*Board Member (as of July 1, 2018)
†Bridged the funding gap of $13,080 for at least one LSS student
Laurie DuBos*
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The Edwards Family
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Iris and Stephen Fletcher
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Miriam and Rogelio Hernandez
Viviana Isaza and
Vladimir Hernandez
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Elizabeth Quint and
Gilbert C. Hoover
Tracie and David Hornedo
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Jonathan Miller
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Annette and Luis Montanez
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Lily, Kenneth and Ryan Ng
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Nilda and Christofer Nystrom
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Heather White
Angie Cuevas and William Won
Shanna and Aaron Yarbrough
Gia and Brian Young
Claudia and Dirk Ziemer

*Board Member (as of July 1, 2018)
†Bridged the funding gap of $13,080 for at least one LSS student
TRIBUTE GIFTS

This list includes Annual Fund contributions made In honor of or In memory of.

In honor of Jeremy Amodeo
Elizabeth Ortiz

In honor of Ian Aquino
Susana Montes and Socrates Aquino

In honor of Thomas Weiner/Bewsher
Janice Weinert

In honor of Fabian Boyle
Johanna Gohmann and David Boyle

In honor of Jaden Brown
Laura Mercedes-Silva and Mario Silva

In honor of Tsehai Burns
Judith Burns

In honor of Massimo Casella
Mary Anne and Jim Casella

In honor of Judah Castillo
Leslie Ann Caraballo and Francis Castillo

In honor of Theo Chang
Yi-Tien and Andy Chang

In honor of Sharon and Mark Chertok*
Valerie and Michael Cantor
Jeffrey B. Gracer
Jill and Myron Kaplan

In memory of Ruth Chertok
Sandy Elam
Phillis Eldridge
Carole Gonsalves
Rheba Rosenbluth
Cynthia Ruck
Janet and Harry Salon
The Skodol Family

In honor of Harrison Ching’s birthday
Judy + Jacob Saulig and Ana Saulig

In honor of Matias N. Delsart
Luvienska Polanco and Matias Delsart

In honor of Aidan DeMatteis
Peggy DeMatteis

In honor of Liam Lonergan D’Emic
Alma and Roy Hill

In honor of Jagger DiLillo
Grazia and William Carey

In honor of James Douglas
Laurel Douglas
Helene Jorgensen

In honor of Tomas Esteruelas
Andrea and Patrick Esteruelas

In honor of Trevor Farrington
Lori and John Farrington

In honor of Benjamin Fletcher
Iris and Stephen Fletcher

In honor of Michael Franzese
Vincenzina and Dominick Franzese

In honor of Jonathan Fuller
Maren Koehler and Craig Fuller

In honor of Ethan Gelfand
Dayna and Sean Gelfand

In honor of Aaron Giglio
Ellen and Arthur Giglio

In honor of Matthew Glickstein
The Jordan Family

In honor of Henry Goldsmith
Joan E. Goodman and Keith Goldsmith

In memory of Carlos Gonsalves
Carole Gonsalves

In honor of Josh Gonsalves
Rebecca and Mark Gonsalves*
Sheila and Daniel Riesel

In memory of Archie Greenberger
Carolyn Weston

In honor of Noemie Grosso
Joanne and Steven Grosso

In memory of Patrick Grosso
Joanne and Steven Grosso

In honor of Sidney Hanrahan
Connie and Andrew Hanrahan

In honor of Jeremy Hayes
Luz and William Lee

In honor of Thaddeus Henry
Carla Rogers-Henry

In honor of Jordan Hernandez
Dahiana Recio and Oswaldo Rodriguez

*Board Member (as of July 1, 2018)
In honor of Julian Herrnstein  
Susan Herrnstein

In honor of Jack Woodrow Heyd  
Ann Thornton and Matthew Heyd

In honor of Coleman and Rosemary Howard  
Mary and Richard Howard

In honor of John and Anthony  
Ying Sun and Roger Yan

In honor of Taksheel Kean  
Sharon Sookdeo and Troy Kean

In honor of Collin Kelso  
Lori Seto and Kyle Kelso

In memory of Milton B. Knaster  
Suzanne Knaster

In honor of David and Carolyn Kretz*  
Gail and Herb Kretz

In honor of Herb and Gail Kretz  
Sana Flanders Shatsel and James Kretz

In honor of Sam Kretz  
Amy Fox  
Bonnie L. Holiday  
Beatriz Ingo

In honor of Sam Kretz and his amazing parents  
Laura and Chris Gorman

In honor of Devon Krishnaswami  
Amy Daley and Hari Krishnaswami

In honor of Schuyler Lindgren  
Hera Huang and Johan Lindgren

In honor of LSS teachers and staff  
Hera Huang and Schuyler Lindgren  
Roelien Weenink and Floris Lyppens

In honor of Andrew Lyle’s birthday  
Judy + Jacob Saulig and Ana Saulig

In honor of Joseph Maggio  
Lillian and John Maggio

In honor of Christopher Marullo  
Dawn and Charles Marullo

In honor of Nicholas Mascialino  
2015 Grad  
Christine and Thomas Mascialino  
Lisa and Joseph Patti

In honor of our grandson Vincent Mazzone  
Mildred and Joseph Del Bove

In honor of Aaron McCleary  
Helen and Daniel McCleary

In honor of Sean McGoldrick  
Judy and Stephen McGoldrick

In honor of Annajean Morales  
Linda A. Pelc

In honor of Matthew Morelli  
Sandra Filosa  
Susan and Michael Morelli

In honor of Theo Morrison  
Carrie Moneymaker and Justin Morrison

In honor of Ivan Moss - Class of 2017  
Susan and Michael Moss

In honor of Bradley Mullin-Delaney  
Vincent Carrino  
Ron Jones

In honor of Naomi, Lisa and Andria  
Ying Sun and Roger Yan

In honor of Oliver Nystrom  
Nilda and Christoffer Nystrom

In honor of Zachary Palmer  
Phyllis and Matthew Jacobson

In honor of Ryan Park  
Karen and Robbin Park

In honor of Sandy Perlinder  
Rose B. Brown and Lester Mattis

In honor of Alayna Polanco  
Vanessa Torres

In honor of Trace Seely  
Nicole Dewey and William Seely

In honor of Nolan Serban-Malone  
Stelian Serban and Brian Maloney

In honor of Jim and Sana Shatsel-Kretz  
Gail and Herb Kretz

In honor of Marilyn Simons*  
Rose B. Brown and Lester Mattis

In memory of John Snowdon  
Judith Newman

In honor of Allison Suarez  
Karina Suarez and Samuel Sarmiento

In honor of Bob and Marlene Summers  
Gail and Herb Kretz

In memory of Robert G. Teuscher  
Carolyn Weston

In honor of Jack Tricarico  
The Edwards Family  
Anthony Tricarico  
Linda and Frank Tricarico  
Kerri* and Michael Tricarico

In honor of Esme Usdan  
Tara Jo Litin

In honor of Bennett Weitz  
Belianne and William Weitz

In honor of William Lucas Won  
Angie Cuevas and William Won

In honor of Eli Yeung  
Annis Lam

In honor of Lucas Ziemer  
Claudia and Dirk Ziemer

In honor of Benji Zwerling  
Shari Freifeld

*Board Member (as of July 1, 2018)
THE IMAGINE PARTY AND END OF YEAR FUNDRAISERS

Patrick Denzer
Colin Devine
Masayo and Nicolas Douglas
Soukeyna Gueye and Amath Drame
Laurie DuBos* 
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Theresa and Edward Faicco†
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