



### EVIDENCE-BASED MODEL

The Summer Advantage program helps children make substantial academic gains, enhance their self-esteem, and raise their aspirations through the core program elements below:

- Outstanding Educators,
- Skills-based Curricula,
- More Time on Task,
- High Quality Instruction,
- Mentoring in Small Classes,
- Parental Engagement,
- Rigorous Evaluation.

### SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

Summer Advantage blends core academic instruction with a diverse array of enrichment that reinforces academics, develops social skills, and raises children's aspiration for what is possible in life. Key enrichment components include:

- College visits: Scholars visited Purdue University, where they had an opportunity to tour the campus and start the process of thinking about college.
- Career exploration: Scholars were introduced to various guest speakers who shared their expertise on arts, eating healthy and our community.

### SUMMER ADVANTAGE USA OVERVIEW

Summer Advantage USA is a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing children accelerated academic and enrichment opportunities over the summer months. Whereas children traditionally lose 3 months of academic skills over the summer ("summer learning loss"), Summer Advantage USA scholars gain over 2 months of academic skills in the 5-week program. The organization's full day summer learning program provides students in grades K-8 with 25 additional days of research-based, academic and enrichment instruction, resulting in academic achievements that prepare children for success.

Summer Advantage USA mornings include rigorous mathematics and language arts instruction delivered by certified teachers. Afternoons offer a rich menu of enrichment activities such as engineering, team sports, biology, art and theater. Children also attend field trips to universities, science centers, cultural landmarks and lead their own service projects. Summer Advantage has positively impacted the lives of over 15,000 children cumulatively (whom we call "scholars") and helped scholars make academic gains in each year of our existence.

### EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Summer Advantage USA is committed to rigorous evaluation in order to provide the highest quality experience for children. The program model has shown a statistically significant impact on reading scores and parental engagement, according to a two-year, randomized control study conducted by the Urban Institute/Mathematica.

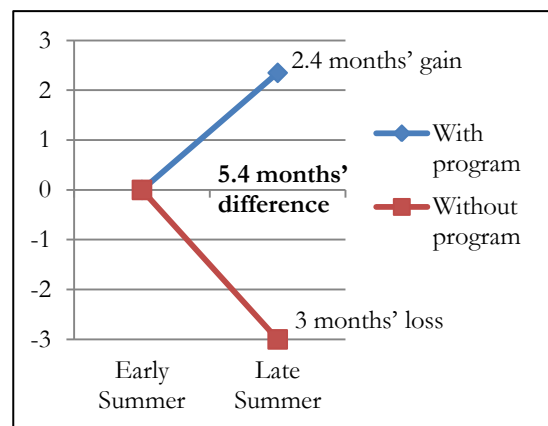
This summer, an evaluation was conducted to assess the organization's impact on major factors linked to student achievement: academic improvement; parental and scholar engagement and teacher satisfaction. Scholars' vocabulary, word analysis, reading, writing, computation, math concepts, and problem solving skills were assessed using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a nationally standardized achievement battery. Eligible scores were compared to a representative national sample in order to assess scholars' academic growth relative to their national peers. Parent, scholar and teacher surveys, designed by Summer Advantage USA, assessed perceptions of the program's content and efficacy, as well as levels of satisfaction.



### ACADEMIC GAINS

This summer, Summer Advantage scholars progressed further in mathematics, reading and language skills than the national average, according to performance on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills:

**2.4 months of reading skills gain and 2.3 months of math skills gain over the 5-week period.** Grade-equivalent scores relate students' scores to the typical performance of students in specified grades tested in a given month of the school year.



### PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- 98% of parents believe their child enjoyed the program;
- 97% of parents would recommend the program to other parents; and
- 96% of parents are satisfied with the program.

### SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

- 99% of scholars felt the adults in Summer Advantage care about them;
- 93% of scholars indicated that they enjoyed attending Summer Advantage; and
- 91% of scholars attended the program daily.

### TEACHER SATISFACTION

- 100% of teachers would recommend the program to parents;
- 100% of teachers found working with the program to be personally rewarding; and
- 100% of teachers feel Summer Advantage developed their professional skills.

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#### Enrichment Experiences

- Purdue University Field Trip
  - Columbian Zoo Field Trip
  - Exotic Feline Rescue Field Trip
  - Conner Prairie Field Trip
  - Forensic Science
  - Cultural Studies
  - History's Mysteries
  - The Science of Cooking
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## THE SUMMER ADVANTAGE EXPERIENCE

To our scholars, families, and teachers, Summer Advantage is more than just a summer program. The academic gains set our scholars on a new path to success in school. The mentors our scholars gain help them chart a new path in life. When parents see their scholars are engaged in learning, they are more deeply involved too. Teachers, who play such an important role in making this happen, achieve new professional milestones in the process. Make no mistake - none of this is easy. It requires hard work and an entrepreneurial spirit. But when everything clicks, the results are remarkable. The stories below perhaps best capture the impact of Summer Advantage.

## WHAT OUR FAMILIES SAY

While the academic gains are measurable, the deeper impact our program has on children is perhaps best summarized from a parent's perspective below:

"We believe this program has helped Michael tremendously. He has always struggled in school and dreads going to school. Every single day after Summer Advantage, he came home and told us what he did that day. He would tell us about what he learned, what part of the day was his favorite, what he ate for breakfast and lunch, and where he would be going for his field trip that week.

Before Summer Advantage, he was never willing to talk about his day at school. He had been very far behind on Reading and Spelling and this affected his self-confidence. Since participating in the program, he is much more willing to try to Read and Spell things on his own. He tries to sound things out, and only asks for help after he's tried several times on his own. He says Summer Advantage is why he's motivated to improve his reading skills, and why he is now much more confident to learn.

The change in him is wonderful. And we wish he could do this every summer. The Teacher called and did a phone conference with us and it was wonderful to feel like we were all on the same page for what's best for Michael. We haven't had that good of luck with teachers throughout the Regular School Year. The personal attention was great and very much needed. We really feel like he will be able to catch up and be a much better student because of this program. We Really, Really hope he is invited back next year.

Thank you so much for showing him that school can be fun and that even though he struggled; he is a smart kid and can do the work. We will recommend this program to anyone."

***If you are interested in bringing high quality summer learning opportunities to your students, please contact***

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