

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 had an opportunity to participate in a college fair created especially for them. The college fair allowed them to explore different occupations and learn about dozens of colleges. They also had the opportunity to meet actual college students from the area.
- Career Exploration
- Service Learning

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 10,000 children cumulatively (whom we call "scholars") and helped scholars make academic gains in each year of our existence.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

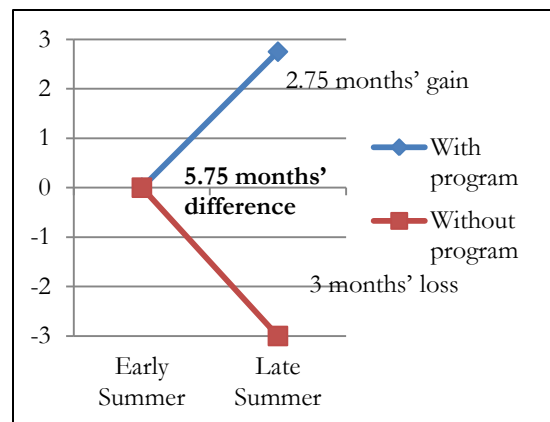
Summer Advantage USA is committed to rigorous evaluation in order to provide the highest quality experience for children. The program model has shown a statistically significant impact on reading scores and parental engagement, according to a two-year, randomized control study conducted by the Urban 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 USA scholars progressed further in mathematics, reading and language skills than the national average, according to performance on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills:

- **2.6 months of math skills gain and 2.9 months of reading 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.
- **8.3 NCE units gain in math and 7.29 NCE units gain in reading, indicating that on average our scholars outpace students nationally.** Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) show a student's relative position compared to others in the same grade and tested at the same time of year. A gain in NCE units indicates that the student has "grown" more than the norm group.
- **An improvement of 11.10 percentile ranks in math and 9.17 percentile ranks in reading compared to peers nationwide.** Percentile ranks range from a low of 1 to a high of 99, with 50 representing the middle score and denoting average performance.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- 99% of parents would recommend the program to others,
- 97% of parents are satisfied with the program,
- 94% of parents feel more engaged in their child's education as a result of participating in the program.

SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

- 96% of scholars express that they like to learn,
- 96% of scholars felt the adults in Summer Advantage care about them,
- 96% of scholars attended the program daily.

TEACHER SATISFACTION

- 100% of teachers feel Summer Advantage developed their professional skills,
- 100% of teachers found working with the program to be personally rewarding.

Field Trips

Aspen Mountain
 Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
 Aspen Music Festival
 College Fair
 Closing Ceremony

Service Project



Scholars participated in several efforts, including a community clean-up and beautification project.



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

"We have felt wonderful about the opportunity Jaxson has had this summer to engage in the academics, have fabulous teachers, and also experience some summer fun being among friends and taking Friday field trips, etc. Thanks for this program!"

"We have very impressed with the quality of the teachers and the aides. Harrison loved the gardening class with Ms. Kupper who is so creative and inspiring. Ms Christian's talent is obvious and her intuition with Harrison was spot-on. The field trips were educational and were made so the kids loved them and looked forward to them. As a parent who wants to see my children succeed, I am very appreciative and thankful my children were able to participate in this program. Thank you!!"

WHAT OUR TEACHERS SAY

"From a teacher's perspective Summer Advantage has been a great experience. I have felt supported and valued. I especially appreciate having an hour between the academic morning time and beginning my Enrichment classes. I feel like I can actually relax a bit and "regroup." Consequently I feel that I am able to give all of my energy to my students. I have some reserves of energy, since I do not have recess duty. Having our TAs assistance and having them taking our children to lunch and recess has been very much appreciated. Thank you for a great opportunity for our scholars, and for us as educators."

"...a little girl named Maddie. Her mom was considering retention for her -- but after the past five weeks, I feel strongly that she is ready for first grade. Her focus and confidence have grown and she is very much on track to start first grade. She is well prepared!"

Thank you for your partnership! We are so incredibly proud of the Basalt scholars and teachers. They all worked so hard this summer!