



## **2022 Freedom School Summer Program Overview**

Freedom School Partners operated the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Summer Program across 12 sites in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community from June 20 – July 28, 2022.

**Scholars** – 605

### ***Scholar Demographics –***

- 70% African-American, 18% Latino/Hispanic, 8% two or more races/other, 3% White, 1% Asian
- 51% Female, 49% Male
- 86% economically disadvantaged (receiving free or reduced-price lunch)
- 146 public/charter/private schools represented
- Scholar Level
  - Level 1: 260 (43%)
  - Level 2: 255 (42%)
  - Level 3: 90 (15%)
- Scholar attendance: 77% six-week average

### ***Summer Staff Team–***

- 73 Servant Leader Interns (25% first generation college students)
- 12 Site Coordinators
- 4 Regional Site Managers
- 3 Junior Servant Leader Interns
- 2 Mayor's Youth Employment Program Interns

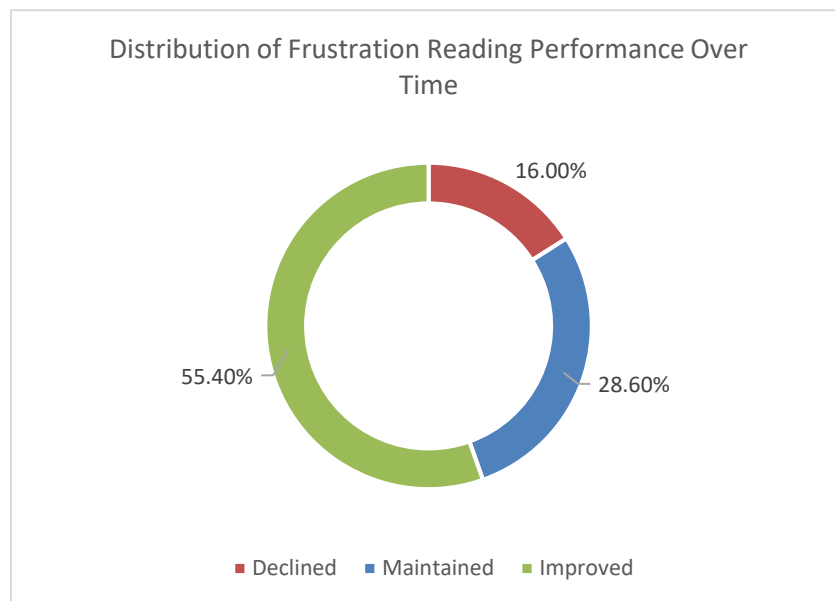
### ***Parent/Caregiver Survey and Engagement Information –***

- 97% of parents/caregivers reported an increase in their child's confidence in their reading ability after participating in Freedom School
- 91% of parents/caregivers reported an increase in their child's love for reading
- 83% of parents/caregivers reported an increase in their child's ability to resolve conflict peacefully
- 92% of parents/caregivers reported improved motivation to read with their child more
- 98% of parents/caregivers indicated they would like their child to attend Freedom School next summer
- More than 1,300 hours of engagement by 260 parents/caregivers.



**Scholar Impact** – FSP’s impact is measured through an independent evaluation conducted by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The UNCC Center for Adolescent Literacies (CFAL) administers the Ekwall/Shanker Reading Inventory to measure if scholars gain or maintain in their reading ability. UNCC’s Center for Education Measurement and Evaluation (CEME) and CFAL conduct an efficacy survey that assesses scholar attitudes.

- 84% of scholars gained or maintained in reading ability



- 78% of scholars believe they are a better reader
- 76% of scholars enjoy reading more
- 82% of scholars want to do Freedom School again next year
- 80% of scholars feel comfortable asking for help from a teacher when they need it
- 75% of scholars know how to better resolve conflict with other students and adults
- 89% of scholars in grades K-2 want to make a difference in their school and their community
- 93% of scholars in grades K-2 think they will be a better student in the next school year
- 90% of scholars in grades 3-8 are more proud of their race
- 82% of scholars in grades 3-8 are more proud of their community
- 85% of scholars in grades 3-8 feel better about their future
- 96% of Servant Leader Interns view themselves as a difference maker in the community and world
- 90% of Servant Leader Interns are more likely to work in their community as a result of their SLI experience
- 93% of Servant Leader Interns are more likely to advocate for children or families living in poverty as a result of their experience
- 76% of Servant Leader Interns understanding of multiculturalism has changed or expanded as result of their SLI experience
- 96% of Servant Leader Interns are better at working with others as a result of their experience
- 100% of Servant Leader Interns have developed or enhanced their leadership skills as a result of their experience



### Site Information –

Site Location	Community Partner	Primary School/Neighborhood Served	Scholars	Free/Reduced lunch %
Christ Lutheran Church	Christ Lutheran Church and McClintock Partners in Education	McClintock Middle, Rama Road Elementary	54	85%
Druid Hills Academy	CN Jenkins Memorial Pres.	Druid Hills Academy	52	79%
The Grove Presbyterian	The Grove Presbyterian Church	JW Grier and surrounding community	54	87%
Highland Renaissance Academy	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Highland Renaissance Academy	51	98%
McClintock Middle School	Christ Episcopal Church	Rama Road Elementary	44	100%
MLK Middle	None	MLK Middle, Hidden Valley Elementary, Newell Elementary	46	98%
Oakhurst STEAM Academy	Providence UMC	Oakhurst STEAM Academy	45	91%
Pinewood Elementary	Myers Park Baptist	Pinewood Elementary	49	84%
Providence Day School	Providence Day School	Rama Road Elementary	36	61%
Renaissance West STEAM Academy	Renaissance West Community Initiative and United Way	Renaissance West, Marie G. Davis Middle, Reid Park Elementary	72	85%
Shalom Park	Shalom Park Agencies	Huntingtowne Farms Elementary; Sterling Elementary	41	85%
University City UMC	University City UMC	David Cox Elementary, Croft Community School	61	72%

### Top 5 Schools Represented –

1. Rama Road Elementary:	48
2. Highland Renaissance Academy:	42
3. Renaissance West STEAM Academy:	34
4. Oakhurst STEAM Academy:	27
5. Pinewood Elementary:	23

### Top 5 Zip Codes Represented –

1. 28212:	67
2. 28208:	60
3. 28213:	56
4. 28215:	52
5. 28269:	42



**Enrichment** – FSP collaborated with 100 enrichment providers and managed over 1,500 afternoon programs.

**Building Home Libraries** – More than 18,800 books were distributed to scholars to build home libraries.

**Essential Needs** – 35,000 meals provided to scholars.

**Back to School Success** – 675 back-to-school kits were provided to scholars, community members, and teachers containing more than 50,000 school supply items such as colored pencils, crayons, notebooks, and scissors.

**Volunteers** – More than 1,600 volunteers provided 5,300 hours of service to our scholars.

### **Parent and Servant Leader Intern Feedback**

- **Scholar Parent/Caregiver:** “I have such good things to say about Freedom Schools but I’ll keep it short (for now). The past school year was pretty rough for my son. Of all the years he’s been in school, this was the first time he was not eager to attend school daily. This in itself posed a challenging academic concern for me. After the first few days at Freedom Schools, he LOVED it. He’s no longer a ‘reluctant’ reader. He even asks if he can read books in the car. He talks about his day with a fondness now. He didn’t do that any during the school year.”
- **Servant Leader Intern:** “It has strengthened my desire to want to help families and children for the better. I also learned more personal skills like patience and how to better communicate with children and families. I feel like Freedom School has showed me the impact I have and want to continue to use to make a difference.”
- **Scholar Parent/Caregiver:** “My son is a rising second [grader] and lacked confidence in reading at the start of the program. After these six weeks, he is excited and eager to read. He’s proud to show that he is reading chapter books. He is carrying books around and reading on his own down time. He has books around him at all times now and his confidence radiates. Thank you so much for pulling him to this phase.”
- **Servant Leader Intern:** It has helped me to build solid relationships and learn what kind of leader I want to be.

## 2022 Summer Photos



*Harambee!* at Pinewood Elementary. A Kiswahili word for “let’s pull together”, *Harambee!* is a high energy pep rally that gets our scholars ready for the day. This year, we were excited to welcome back community readers!



At Druid Hills, our scholars know they have “Something Inside So Strong” at their morning *Harambee!*



The Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) is the core of our program. Here, scholars and their SLI at Shalom Park prepare to read the book for the day.



During the IRC, scholars connect the book they are reading back to their lives through creative and fun activities. Our scholars believe in their ability to make a difference.





A scholar participates in D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) time at Druid Hills. D.E.A.R. continues to be a highlight of the Freedom School daily experience in which scholars read a book of their choice.



At Freedom School, scholars receive breakfast and lunch every day. This meal at Oakhurst was provided at their Finale by their site partner, Providence UMC.



Afternoons at Freedom School are dedicated to meaningful enrichment opportunities. Here, Level 3 scholars from The Grove take a walking tour of Charlotte's historic Brooklyn neighborhood.



Building home libraries is an important part of our work. This year, FSP sent home more than 18,800 books with our scholars. In addition to taking home weekly IRC books, scholars get to select new books, free of charge, during the Scholastic Book Fair.



Water games are a great way to beat the heat of summer! FSP was thrilled to bring back Field Days for all of our Level 1 and 2 scholars at Providence Day School.



This summer saw the return of Jubilee at the Grady Cole Center. Jubilee is a celebration of summer learning where all of our sites gather to sing, cheer, dance, and have a great time! Here, scholars are enjoying a visit from the Charlotte Hornets' very own Hugo!



Freedom School was thrilled to welcome volunteers back onsite to engage with our scholars. This summer, we partnered with Bank of America for a "Sustain the Gain" campaign, bringing hundreds of volunteers to Freedom Schools across the city.



On July 20, all of our sites participated in the Great Day of D.E.A.R. Here, a scholar and volunteer are paired together at University City UMC to read the book "I Am One" and talk about how they can make a difference in the world.



Preparing for summer is hard work! Our Latrobe Warehouse welcomes volunteers throughout the year to help us prepare for the summer.