



# 2024 Freedom School Information

## Contents:

- About Freedom School Partners
- *Harambee!* Times and Locations
- Site Contact Information
- 2024 Calendar Highlights
- 2024 Volunteer Opportunities
- Freedom School Day
- *Harambee!* In-Town Training Invite
- Freedom School Sites Map
- Staff Contact Information
- Freedom School Lingo



# About Freedom School Partners

## About Freedom School Partners:

Freedom School Partners (FSP) is a nonprofit located in Charlotte, NC that provides a six-week summer learning experience for those who need it most. Our mission is to inspire our scholars to love reading and learning, believe in themselves, and create extraordinary futures.

## We fulfill this mission by:

1. Delivering a culturally diverse and responsive curriculum that affirms our scholars with engaging literature and exposure to the broader community.
2. Serving families and children who lack access to high quality summer learning and enrichment opportunities and infusing every day with joy and Freedom School magic.
3. Addressing the whole child by supporting their academic, social, emotional and basic needs.
4. Offering a workforce development opportunity for college students that positions them to increase social capital and instills skills and competencies that will make them competitive in the professional marketplace.
5. Collaborating with diverse community stakeholders who contribute to and benefit from the partnerships.
6. Advocating relentlessly for our scholars by focusing on educational equity and on the root causes of academic achievement gaps.

**Our Vision:** A community fiercely committed to embracing, elevating, and educating all children as our own.

## Our Values:

- We lead with what's best for our scholars.
- We love and respect our scholars for who they are now: worthy, unique, whole people who inspire us.
- We nurture each scholar's educational, social, emotional and leadership development.
- We honor FSP's rich history, mission and roots in the work of social justice and civil rights.
- We celebrate diversity and bring our creativity, flexibility and adaptability to every project.
- We actively practice empathy and seek to understand others' perspectives, viewpoints and lived experiences.

FSP primarily serves K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students ("Scholars") who do not have access to quality summer learning programs. In 2024, FSP will serve 700 scholars at 13 Freedom School sites throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

**Freedom Schools are part of Children's Defense Funds' six-week, literacy-rich summer program with focus on social/emotional skills and community building.** Freedom School, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. begins with breakfast followed by *Harambee!*, a daily pep rally with a volunteer guest reader. After an energizing morning, scholars participate in 2 hours and 30 minutes of the nationally-developed Integrated Reading Curriculum, engaging with books diverse in history and culture, allowing scholars to see themselves in the stories they read. Then, scholars Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) during a silent reading period. Lunch kicks off the rest of the day, followed by an enriching afternoon program that includes STEAM activities, games, educational field trips. Freedom School provides two healthy meals, a snack and program transportation. Books are sent home weekly to build personal libraries.



# About Freedom School Partners

## History

Founded in 1999, Freedom School Partners (formerly Seigle Avenue Partners) received significant start-up funding from the Foundation for the Carolinas (FFTC) Building Youth Initiative and Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church. In 2004, FSP was selected by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) to join community organizations around the country and serve as a local sponsor for CDF's six-week summer reading program called Freedom School. That year, FSP launched its first CDF Freedom School serving 100 students. Freedom School uses a unique model where college students, called Servant Leader Interns (SLIs), complete 90 hours of extensive training and lead our scholars each day in the curriculum. SLIs become role models and cheerleaders for the scholars. FSP accepts students without regard for their achievement levels and primarily serves students without access to quality literacy and enrichment programming.

## Closing the gap

Summer learning loss is the largest factor contributing to the achievement gap in school performance for low-income students (National Center for Summer Learning, Johns Hopkins University). Most children in poverty are disproportionately affected by losses in reading, with at-risk students losing more than 2-3 months in reading achievement every summer, while their more affluent peers make slight gains. This loss is cumulative (Horizon National); thus, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college. Students who read on grade level by third grade are 96% more likely to graduate high school, which is a critical upward mobility indicator (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force).

### 2023 impact by the numbers:

- 653 scholars served
- 34,000 meals were provided to scholars
- 84% of parents/caregivers reported an increase in their child's love for reading
- FSP provided nearly 21,700 school supply and personal care items to scholars, families, and the community
- 1,894 volunteers provided 6,800 hours of service to our scholars

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

- In 2023, 80% of scholars gained or maintained in reading ability.



## 2024 Harambee Times & Locations

Site	Address & Phone Number	Harambee Location	Start Time
Christ Lutheran Church	4519 Providence Rd, 28226 Site Number: 980-384-3305	<b>"The Pit" (located inside the main Worship Center).</b> Enter through the main entrance of CLC and look for the coffee station in the foyer. The Pit is located behind the coffee station.	8:30 AM
Druid Hills (CN Jenkins)	2801 Lucena St, 28206 Site Number: 980-384-2748	<b>Gym.</b> Enter through the main entrance of Druid Hills and look for the Freedom School signs to direct you to the gym.	8:30 AM
Highland Renaissance	125 W. Craighead Rd, 28206 Site Number: 980-384-1998	<b>School Gym.</b> Look for Freedom School signage to help direct you to the Gym and Cafeteria entrances (when looking at the front of the school, this entrance is to the right of the main entrance). When you arrive, we will make every attempt to meet you at the door.	8:30 AM
Hornets Nest	6700 Beatties Ford Rd, 28216 Site Number: 980-384-3203	<b>Multi-purpose Room.</b> Enter through the main entrance of the school and follow signs to multi-purpose room. Connected to cafeteria.	8:30 AM
Martin Luther King, Jr.	500 Bilmark Ave, 28213 Site Number: 980-384-2593	<b>Music Room.</b> Turn left upon entering the main entrance of the school and look for the Freedom School signs to help direct you. When you arrive, we will make every attempt to meet you at the main entrance.	8:30 AM
Rama Road	1035 Rama Rd, 28211S Site Number: 980-384-2177	<b>School Gym.</b> The gym is a detached building located on the right side of the schoolhouse when you are facing the main building. We will try to meet you at the Gym entrance, but please follow Freedom School signage to direct you, if needed.	8:30 AM
Pinewood	805 Seneca Pl, 28210 Site Number: 980-384-3288	<b>Gym.</b> Enter through the main entrance of the school. Though we will make every attempt to meet you when you arrive, Freedom School signage will be posted to help direct you to the Harambee space.	8:30 AM
Providence Day School	5800 Sardis Rd, 28270	<b>School Library.</b> When entering from Sardis Road, go to the first stop sign. Take a right; Thompson Jones Library is the first building on the right. When you arrive, we	8:30 AM



## 2024 Harambee Times & Locations

Site	Address & Phone Number	Harambee Location	Start Time
	Site Number: 980-384-2719	will make every attempt to meet you at the library's main entrance, but signage will be available to help direct you, if needed.	
Renaissance West	3421 New Renaissance Way, 28208 Site Number: 980-384-3348	<b>Multi-purpose Room.</b> Enter through the side door off the parking lot (look for the red Freedom School sign outside to help direct you). Connected to the cafeteria.	8:30 AM
The Grove	5735 E WT Harris Blvd, 28215 Site Number: 980-384-3354	<b>Church Gym.</b> Drive around to the back of the church. When viewing the church from the back side of the building. Follow the Freedom School signs to direct you to the Gym. When you arrive, we will make every attempt to meet you at the main entrance.	8:30 AM
Thomasboro	538 Bradford Drive, 28208 Site Number: 980-416-0008	<b>Gym.</b> Enter at the front entrance, take your first left down the hall, the gym will be on the right hand side. If you need assistance, please call the Site Phone.	8:30 AM
University City UMC	3835 W W.T. Harris Blvd, 28269 Site Number: 980-384-3286	<b>Orange Room.</b> When entering parking lot please continue to the back of the church facility to the Disciple Building. From there you will see Freedom School signage, <i>Harambee!</i> takes place upstairs in the Orange/Gathering Room.	8:30 AM
CMS Site	TBD Site Number: 980-384-1715	<b>TBD</b>	8:30 AM



## Site Contact Information

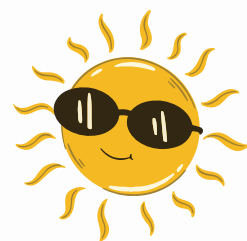
Site Coordinators	Site	Number	Email
Aletea Joosten	Christ Lutheran	980-384-3305	<a href="mailto:fspclc@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspclc@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Assata Parkins	Druid Hills (CN Jenkins)	980-384-2748	<a href="mailto:fspcnj@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspcnj@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Essence Blye	Highland	980-384-1998	<a href="mailto:fsphighland@freedomschoolpartners.org">fsphighland@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Remy Simpson	Hornets Nest	980-384-3203	<a href="mailto:fsphornetsnest@freedomschoolpartners.org">fsphornetsnest@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Nicholas Bratcher	TBD	980-384-1715	TBD
Stephanie Crank	MLK	980-384-2593	<a href="mailto:fspmlk@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspmlk@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Josh Conner	PDS	980-384-2719	<a href="mailto:fsppds@freedomschoolpartners.org">fsppds@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Te’Keria Rann	Pinewood	980-384-3288	<a href="mailto:fsppinewood@freedomschoolpartners.org">fsppinewood@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Gregory Fields	Rama Rd	980-384-2177	<a href="mailto:fspramaroad@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspramaroad@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Nadia Liriano	Renaissance West	980-384-3348	<a href="mailto:fsprenaissancewest@freedomschoolpartners.org">fsprenaissancewest@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Treymayne Higgins	The Grove	980-384-3354	<a href="mailto:fspthegrove@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspthegrove@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Anyea Gibson	Thomasboro	980-416-0008	<a href="mailto:fspthomasboro@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspthomasboro@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>
Ayanna Perry	University City	980-384-3286	<a href="mailto:fspuniversitycity@freedomschoolpartners.org">fspuniversitycity@freedomschoolpartners.org</a>

## 2024 Summer Highlights (June and July)

JUNE				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>3</u> Training	<u>4</u> Training	<u>5</u> Training	<u>6</u> Training	<u>7</u> Training
<u>10</u> Training	<u>11</u> Training	<u>12</u> SITE SET-UP	<u>13</u> SITE SET-UP	<u>14</u> SITE SET-UP
<u>17</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Freedom School	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Juneteenth No Freedom School	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Book Fair Begins	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
JULY				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>1</u> Level 1 & 2 Field Day	<u>2</u> Level 1 & 2 Field Day	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> No Freedom School	<u>5</u> No Freedom School
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> JUBILEE
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> GREAT DAY OF DEAR/National Day of Social Action	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Last Day of Book Fair L3 Day in the Life Presentations
<u>22</u> Level 3 Field Day	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Last day of Freedom School/Finale Day	<u>26</u> SITE CLEAN- UP/Supply Drop Off

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday-Friday, June 3 – 7	Training	Harrison UMC
Monday and Tuesday, June 10-11	Training	Do Greater Charlotte
Wednesday-Friday, June 12-14	Site Set-Up	ALL SITES
Friday, July 19	L3 Day in the Life	Covenant Presbyterian
Monday, July 1 – Tuesday, July 2	L1/L2 Field Day	Providence Day School Field
Friday, June 26 – Friday, July 19	Scholastic Book Fair	Tentative: Highland
Friday, July 12	Jubilee	Grady Cole Center
Wednesday, July 17	Great Day of DEAR	ALL SITES
Monday, July 22	L3 Field Day	Sports Connection Ballantyne
Thursday, July 25	FINALE	ALL SITES
Friday, July 26	Site Clean/Supply Drop	ALL SITES/Latrobe

# Summer



## Volunteer Opportunities

June 12th

### Site Material Distribution

Assist with distributing the supplies needed for the Freedom School Program. Volunteers will load cars and their own to take items to sites.

SCAN ME



7-9:30AM

or 9:30-12PM

June 17th to  
July 24th

### Harambee! Reader

Harambee! is a morning pep rally, designed to energize, affirm and empower our scholars. Come and be a guest reader during this time and learn Freedom School cheers and chants!

July 17th  
(1.5 hr)

### Great Day of D.E.A.R

On Great Day of D.E.A.R, volunteers are paired with a scholar to Drop Everything And Read! Connect with a scholar through reading and social action project.

June 26th to  
July 19th

### Scholastic Book Fair

Help scholars find and select age appropriate books, assist with the "check out" process, engage with scholars through activities, and tidy shelves or restock merchandise.

Schedule  
a time!

### Latrobe Warehouse Helper

Help support scholars through organizing, receiving, and distributing needed supplies for our Freedom School program.

### Additional Opportunities

Times  
Vary

- D.E.A.R daily reading buddy - 11:30AM
- Field trip chaperone

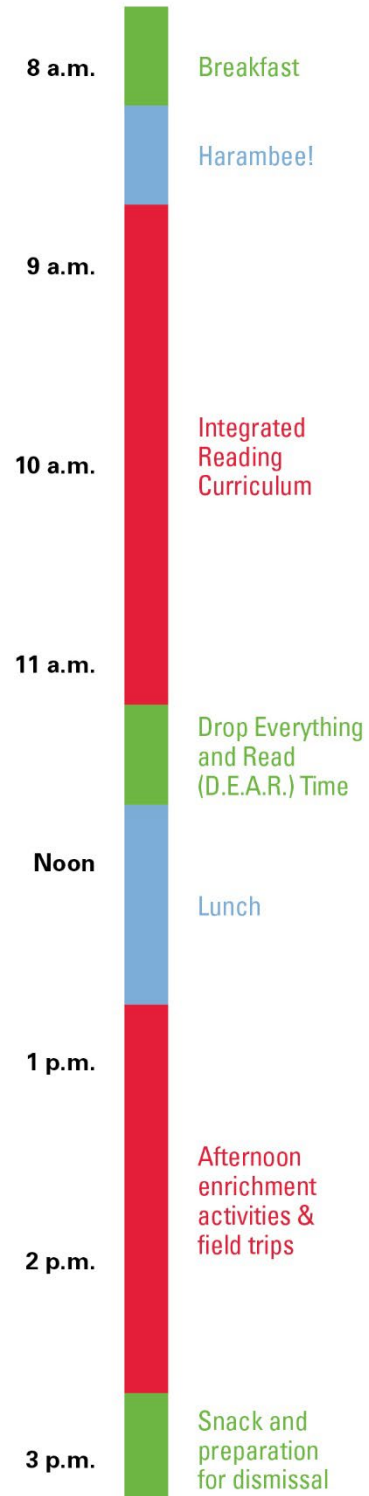
Please reach out to Alexis Young at [alexis@freedomschoolpartners.org](mailto:alexis@freedomschoolpartners.org) if interested.



# A Typical Freedom School Day

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Freedom School Staff arrive on site.</b>
<b>8:00-8:30 am</b>	<b>Scholars arrive. Breakfast time.</b> Scholars enjoy a nutritious breakfast.
<b>8:30-9:00 am</b>	<b>HARAMBEE!</b>  Every day begins with <i>Harambee!</i> —a high-energy celebration of reading, learning and every child’s ability to succeed. This is an inspiring time filled with songs, dance, cheers and chants and featuring a guest reader from the community.
<b>9:00-11:30 am</b>	<b>Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC)</b>  IRC is a special time for interns and scholars to focus on the curriculum, work on reading comprehension skills, and do team building activities.
<b>11:30-11:45 pm</b>	<b>D.E.A.R. Time</b> (times vary at sites with Extended D.E.A.R. time)  <b>Drop Everything And Read:</b> Scholars read independently or with a volunteer for 15-30 minutes.
<b>12:00-12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime.</b> Scholars enjoy a nutritious lunch.
<b>1:00-2:45 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Enrichment Activities &amp; Field Trips</b>  Each afternoon scholars engage in enrichment activities and field trips.
<b>2:45-3:00 pm</b>	<b>Snack &amp; Dismissal</b>
<b>3:00-4:00 pm</b>	<b>Staff Debrief</b>

## A FREEDOM SCHOOL DAY





Freedom  
School  
Partners

Join us to  
experience

***HARAMBEE!***



Freedom School Partners (FSP) hires college student interns annually who serve as classroom leaders, mentors and role model for scholars. FSP interns are on the front line of eliminating summer learning loss during FSP's six-week summer program. Our Servant Leader Interns (SLIs) receive 90 hours of training to prepare them for success during Freedom School.

We would love to have you experience *Harambee!* during training, a high energy pep rally held every morning at Freedom school with cheers and chants with a read-aloud guest.

**June 3-7**

Harrison  
UMC

15008 Lancaster Hwy  
Pineville, NC 28134

**June 10-11**

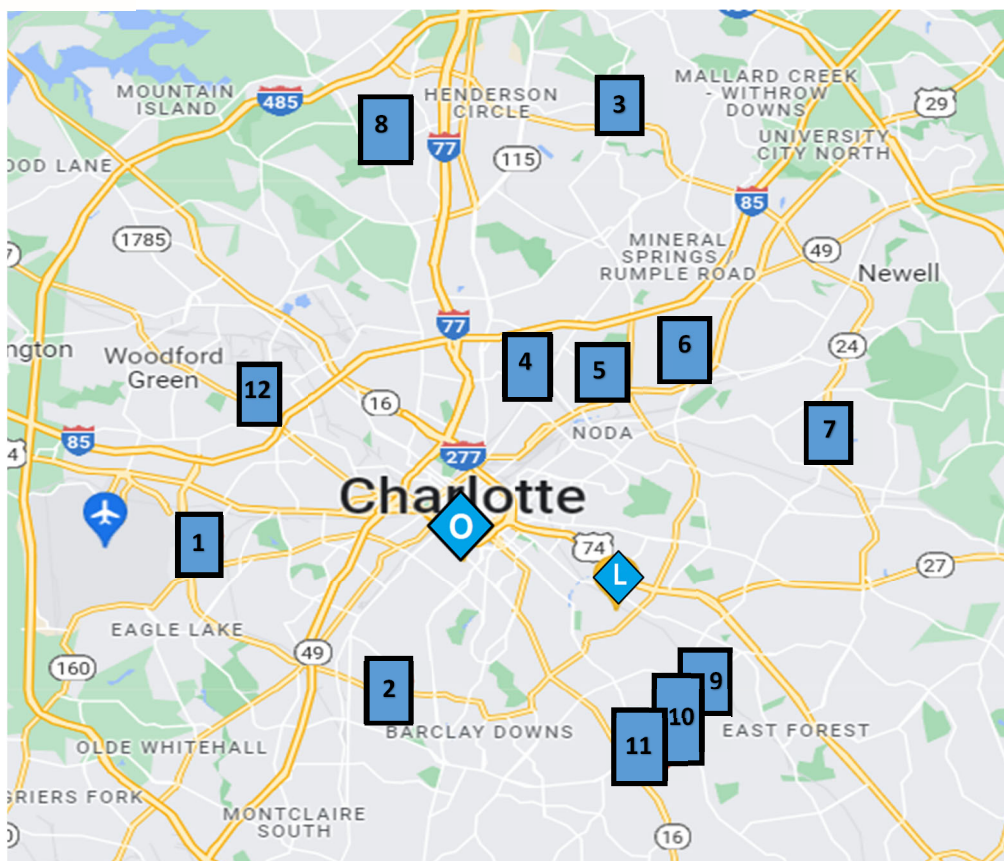
Do Greater  
Charlotte

2400 Greenland Ave  
Charlotte, NC 28208

Contact our Development Office  
at [development@freedomschoolpartners.org](mailto:development@freedomschoolpartners.org) for more info.



## 2024 Freedom School Sites



1. Renaissance West STEAM  
[3241 New Renaissance Way, 28208](#)

2. Pinewood Elementary  
[805 Seneca Place, 28210](#)

3. University City United Methodist  
3835 W W.T. Harris Blvd,  
28269

4. Druid Hills Academy  
2801 Lucena St, 28206

5. Highland Renaissance Academy  
125 W Craighead Rd, 28206

6. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle  
500 Bilmark Avenue, 28213

7. The Grove Presbyterian  
5735 East WT Harris Blvd,  
28215

8. Hornets Nest Elementary  
6700 Beatties Ford Rd, 28216

9. Rama Road  
1035 Rama Rd, 28212

10. Providence Day School  
5800 Sardis Road, 28270

11. Christ Lutheran  
4519 Providence Road,  
28226

12. Thomasboro Academy  
538 Bradford Dr, 28208



FSP Office  
1030 Arosa Ave., 28203



FSP Latrobe (Warehouse)  
3605 Latrobe Drive, Ste. D, 28211



## Staff Contact Information

**1030 Arosa Avenue, 28203** (physical address)  
**P.O. Box 37363, 28237** (mailing address)  
Phone: 704-371-4922

Fax: 704-348-9058  
Conference Line: 980-267-3430  
[www.freedom-school-partners.org](http://www.freedom-school-partners.org)

Name/Title	Email	Cell Phone	Extension
<b>Alexis Young</b> Volunteer Coordinator	alexis@	(704) 408-5391	243
<b>Amber Jackson-Holston</b> Enrichment Manager	amber@	(803) 206-5876	244
<b>Annalise Wilson</b> Marketing & Communications Manager	annalise@	(704) 467-4792	224
<b>Denisha McCluney</b> Regional Site Manager	denisha@	(704) 458-0576	N/A
<b>Ieeshah Mackey</b> Supplies and Materials Coordinator	ieeshah@	(980) 722-1656	241
<b>Justin Lane</b> Data Evaluation & Impact Manager	justin@	(704) 340-3497	226
<b>Leah Jones</b> Scholars & Families Manager	leah@	(704) 219-8760	234
<b>Mai Yang</b> Operations Manager & Bookkeeper	mai@	(980) 346-4142	221
<b>Necole Watts</b> Year Round Engagement & Outreach Coordinator	necole@	(704) 222-1217	242
<b>Nikki Keith</b> Chief Executive Officer	nikki@	(704) 560-2723	227
<b>Sally Sacco</b> Chief Administrative Officer	sally@	(704) 737-6382	239
<b>Shonice Pettaway</b> Regional Site Manager	shonice@	(252) 347-3457	N/A
<b>Taylor Higgins</b> Regional Site Manager	taylor@	(704) 458-7644	N/A
<b>Tiffany Williams</b> Chief Programming & Partnerships Officer	tiffany@	(704) 957-7491	231





## Freedom School Lingo

**The Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools®** program is a national program from The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) – a child advocacy agency in Washington, DC. Freedom School Partners is the largest provider of the Freedom School program in the nation.

**D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything And Read.** Scholars read independently, or with volunteers, every day.

**Finale** – Finales are end-of-Freedom School celebrations held at each site to highlight the learning over the program and honor the scholars, interns, and site coordinators who participate in Freedom School.

***Harambee!*** – In Kiswahili, *Harambee!* means “Let’s pull together.” It is a daily pep rally that occurs Monday-Friday between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. at every site. *Harambee!* includes cheers, chants, songs, and a community “read aloud” guest.

**Jubilee** - Freedom School Partners’ city-wide celebration of summer learning. All Charlotte Freedom School sites are brought together under one roof to experience a giant *Harambee!* and showcase their sites’ individuality with unique cheers and chants. Jubilee is July 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Grady Cole Center.

**Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC)** – Scholars participate in IRC for 2 hours and 30 minutes each day at Freedom School. The Integrated Reading Curriculum includes a combination of the following: cooperative group activities, conflict resolution skill building, social action activities and more. On average, Level I scholars (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) read a book a day, Level Ione chapters (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) read about 3-5 books a week, and Level III scholars (6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade) read about a chapter book a week. This is truly a special time for interns and scholars to focus on the curriculum, work on their literacy skills and do team building activities such as skits, talk shows, interviews and summaries.

**Junior Servant Leader Interns (JSLs)** – Former scholars who are now high school students and serve as site assistants. They also might participate in our FSP Academy during the academic school year.

**On-Site Activities (OSAs)** – Afternoon activities conducted at the site. Enrichment Providers help plan and assist with a fun 30 to 90-minute activity using their skills, interests, or hobbies. Some examples include yoga, bubble-making, robotics, or a mini soccer camp.

**Regional Site Managers** – Work closely with the Tiffany Williams, Partnership and Programming Officer to support site management.

**Scholars** – Freedom School students in Levels I (K-2<sup>nd</sup>), II (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), and III (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>).

**Servant Leader Interns (SLIs)** – College students that teach and serve a class of about 10 scholars.

**Site Administrative Interns (SAIs)** – Freedom School seasonal staff member providing administrative support to the site and Site Coordinator. May also assist SLIs with classroom management.

**Site Coordinators (SCs)** – Manager of the Freedom School site. Responsible for the well-being of scholars, SLIs, and the Freedom School program at their site. Site Coordinators report to their assigned Regional Site Manager.