

Meet a #MAM Kid: Forzando Mebane



"I'm going to college. There's no ifs, ands or buts about it," says Forzando, an honor student at Kipp Memphis Collegiate High School. "I am going to be an electrical engineer, work, and then get my Ph.D. – at least that's the plan now." Several colleges are already recruiting Forzando to join their engineering programs.

Since second grade, Forzando has been coming to MAM Greenlaw. Like many MAM kids, he came with friends to play basketball. Now as a junior in high school, Forzando is truly a leader with a servant heart and a winning attitude.

He claims Jesus as his closest friend and has learned to lean on his Savior through the ups and downs of life.

Forzando works part-time at Chick-fil-A. As a participant in our career readiness program, he says Coach Kyle Bennison, career readiness director, taught him to think long-term and that short-term decisions affect his future.

"Coach Kyle also enforced networking skills. He took us to a job event early one Saturday morning. I didn't want to get up so early, but Coach said it was up to us to get a job, so I went. I met the general manager at Chick-fil-A and now I have a job. I see that all the soft and hard skills Coach Kyle drilled into us really do work at a real job. I am proud of myself and I thank God, too."

We are proud of Forzando, his zest for pursuing the Christian life, and his desire to excel where God leads him!

Looking ahead . . .

Forty-one MAM kids are awaiting a week at Kids Across America (KAA) camp in Branson, Missouri in June.

Kasey Spencer, MAM high school girls mentor, says, "Camp gives us an incredible opportunity to share Jesus. Not only do we have the perfect platform of God's creation, but we have 24/7 to pour into each child. Our staff comes home exhausted, but so thankful that we deepened relationships through walks in the woods and late night conversations."

To go, each camper must contribute \$60. Each MAM center is hosting a fundraising event. For more info, visit: <http://www.mamsports.org/camp>.



On the court:

Forming Fun Friendships

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." | John 15:12



George, Townes, and Palmer, fourth graders at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School, and their teammates from the MAM Grizzlies Center all have one goal in mind: to have fun playing basketball together.

"I thought it was good we had new people on the team; we can do better and they will help," says MAM player Jordan of his new friends.

"Basketball is a fun way to meet someone new. We are friends and we all get to glorify God together through this amazing game," says George.

When asked about their differences in skin color, George and Jordan agreed "we are the same." George went on to paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words,

that it is not the color of your skin, but the content of your character that counts.

We are thankful for these kids who are bridging the gap.