



BEYOND THE BALL

Every child wins at MAM's Summer Academy

Last summer, Jaylon, age 10, came to the MAM Grizzlies Center every day five days a week. Nicole, age 12, came to the MAM Olivet Center five days a week. And along with Jaylon and Nicole, 400 other third to eighth grade boys and girls came all summer long to these two centers - and three more - for one reason only, MAM's Summer Academy.

Summer Academy is "hard to describe," according to Jaylon. "Summer Academy is not just playing sports, but a bunch of fun things that keep me busy and out of trouble. It's learning about Jesus. It's reading books about different countries. It's meeting nice people and going to places all over Memphis, and pretty much, well, it's just the best summer ever."

Nicole liked Summer Academy for another reason. "At home, I watch TV or play on my phone all day while my mom is at work. At Summer Academy, the teachers help me think, so I don't forget what I learned at school."

MAM's Summer Academy began in 2007 as an outreach summer program to serve the youth who participate in MAM programs during the school year. Approximately 50 sixth and seventh grade boys attended the first camp at the MAM Grizzlies Center. Continued success resulted in the 2017 camp serving approximately 300 boys and girls from third to eighth grade from all over Memphis. The 2018 Summer Academy will serve 460 children at five locations.



This year's academy will include Bible lessons, games and competitions, science, art, math, reading and once a week field trips. It will run five days a week, from June 4 through July 24, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

"Educators report that a student's learning slips during the summer. We want to stop that trend," states Ginny Windsor, MAM Academic Director. "And during the summer, what better way to learn than through fun, active games with your friends. At MAM's Summer Academy, every child wins."

Ways to support MAM Summer

Stop by our Summer Academy Preview Day!

Monday, June 18th, will be another fun-filled day at MAM Summer Academy and we want you to come! Stop by one of our locations between 9:00am and 3:00pm for a brief tour. Email Ginny Windsor at gwindor@mamsports.org to sign up today!

Give the best summer ever!

Summer Academy parents pay \$50 per child. Our actual cost is \$300 per child. If you would like to help send a child to camp, go to mamsports.org/summer or mail a check to:
 Memphis Athletic Ministries
 Attn: Summer Academy
 2107 Ball Road, Memphis, TN 38114.

MAM Insights from the President: Why we do Summer Academy

This time of year, our kids are looking forward to the end of school and the beginning of summer break. My 13-year-old son Enoch is no exception; he is ready for summer to START NOW.

When I was a child, I didn't go away to camp, on church trips or family vacations during the summer. I didn't have many adult role models consistently spending time with me. My coach James Collinsworth opened the school gym every day, and I went to the local Boys and Girls Club every now and then.

At the gym, my coach would give me a box and tell me to pick up trash outside and around the gym before coming inside and before going home. I also had to sweep inside and out. Coach C wanted me to have "skin in the game." He was **coaching** me, **growing** me as a young man, and **leading** me in the right way.

Coach Collinsworth knew that if I wasn't at the gym, I was probably up to no good. He made sure that I was in the gym almost every day. Even though I spent most of my summer days under Coach C's guidance, I never did anything remotely related to schoolwork. I cannot remember EVER reading a single book over the summer, much less THINK about reading!



Many Memphis kids do not have a Coach C in their lives. And many do not have other adults who are there every day giving them supervision and structure throughout the summer months. We offer Summer Academy, so parents have a dynamic, fun, safe place for their kids to spend their summer days. Their kids spend their days reading, playing sports, learning life skills, and more, all with a gospel-centered focus.

Parents pay \$50.00 per child for the whole summer plus the cost of field trips. Just like Coach Collinsworth knew I needed, our parents and kids need to have "skin in the game."

Our vision for the summer is **each child finds IDENTITY in Christ, has HOPE restored and LIFE change.**

Please pray about helping us give boys and girls the best summer of their lives. Join us for our MAM Summer Academy Preview Day on June 18th and see how incredible our kids are.

In His Grip,

Randy



"Shoes of Hope:" Samaritan's Feet Event

On January 11 at the MAM Grizzlies Center, 470 MAM children and children from Las Americas experienced the love of Jesus by having their feet washed at a Samaritan's Feet shoe distribution. St. George's Independent School, cityCURRENT and over a hundred more volunteers gave the kids new socks, shoes and lots of love.

"We are honored to host this event. No doubt our kids love getting new shoes, but what they really see is a person they don't know sitting across from them, asking questions about their lives and dreams," said Tucker Watson, MAM Grizzlies Center Director.

While waiting in line for their turns, most of the kids said they were nervous, but excited to have their feet washed.

Waylon Boswell, age 17, didn't know what to expect. "It was kind of cool since Jesus did it."

To learn more about Samaritan's Feet, go to: <https://www.samaritansfeet.org/>

God is working at MAM Hamilton

MAM mentors often deal with hard situations in the lives of our youth. But God remains faithful all the time, often in unexpected ways.

Ask Charles Washington, our MAM Hamilton Director.

“Jaylin, one of my faithful and involved high school boys, was in trouble. A group of boys was accusing him of shooting a friend. They were making threats and coming to Jaylin’s house looking for him. Jaylin was not the shooter! Fearing his safety, Jaylin’s mom kept him at home away from school and away from MAM for several days. I wanted to help but wasn’t sure what to do. That night I prayed and asked God for guidance. The next morning my wife Moriah, who knew nothing about the situation, told me God put it on her heart to make a meal for Jaylin! I was blown away. So, we cooked dinner for him and his family.



“On my way to deliver the meal, I wrestled on the best way to approach Jaylin about doing this week’s Bible study. Jaylin came to Bible study regularly, but he struggles with fully committing to live for God. I wanted him to know that I sincerely cared about him, not just that I wanted to ‘play preacher’ and read the Bible to him. I was still wrestling as I walked up the steps to his house. I don’t know why I ever doubted God. As soon as Jaylin opened the door, he hugged me and said “Coach, can I make up my Bible study since I didn’t come this week?” Once again, I was blown away and so thankful to God for working in Jaylin’s life! That was the most attentive I have ever seen Jaylin as he truly began to seek Jesus. It was amazing to see God working in Jaylin’s life.”

Please pray for Jaylin and all youth who struggle to see Jesus in their lives. Pray for Jesus to invade their hearts.

Kathy Talley, MAM volunteer: A heart full of grace

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

Kathy, a retired music teacher, loves working with children. Once she and her husband Rick started attending Grace Church that meets at MAM Greenlaw, Kathy knew she had found a place to serve.



Kathy helps teach cooking classes to the older girls with ladies from Grace Church twice a month and she is putting together a cookbook to give the girls at the end of the school year. Kathy also volunteers once a week. Here is how she described a recent day of volunteering:

"A busy afternoon!! I started a music class. The kids enjoyed singing (also did a little movement) so I think that we will work it into Wednesday's schedule frequently. I also met with the two middle school girls that

I'll be discipling. We just got acquainted and talked about the truth of the Bible. Next week I plan to start using some very short lessons on Women of the Bible. I led the group devotional and helped elementary girls with homework. I was really tired when I get home but received such a blessing.”

Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your heart and talents!



Hallie Walker's legacy lives on

Halle Walker enjoyed inspiring and improving MAM Olivet's literacy program through exposing all our students to all types of reading, sharing her joy of reading and her love for Jesus. After she passed away in May 2017, her family wanted to keep her memory alive. They set up the Halle Walker Reading Award to be given annually to a MAM Olivet child who faithfully attends literacy lessons and shows exceptional growth in reading levels.

This first Halle Walker Reading Award recipient is Marvella Velasquez, who is in second grade at Knight Road Elementary. She was honored with a \$250 shopping spree at Barnes and Nobles where her MAM coach Chalice Harbor helped her select many age-appropriate books. Marvella also shared her reward with her two brothers Kevin and Patrick by having them each pick out a book, too.

Many thanks to the Walker family for loving and encouraging our MAM readers!



Save the Date!

2018 marks MAM's 20th anniversary and we are throwing a party! Plan now to attend Tuxes & Tannies on the evening of September 29, 2018 at the MAM Grizzlies Center, 2107 Ball Road. This fun evening will let you experience a day in the life of a MAM kid. We will celebrate our founders as we share our hopes, dreams and vision for the next 20 years. Mark your calendars! *More details coming soon.*



Memphis Athletic Ministries

2107 Ball Road

Memphis, TN 38114

We are excited to announce MAM is the recipient of the
2018 Nexus Mentoring Organization/Non-Profit of the Year!