AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO & LEARN 8 CHARTER SCHOOL PROVIDE SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH GRANTS



 $Coach\ Tavares\ Briggs\ teaches\ ball\ handling\ and\ shooting\ skills\ at\ LEARN\ 8"s\ summer\ program.\ (Photos\ by\ Brad)$

By Angie Mims

Since 2015, America SCORES Chicago and LEARN Charter Schools have teamed up to provide hundreds of students with Literacy in Action programs combining soccer, poetry, and service learning. Throughout this time, it was evident to LEARN School leadership and teachers that the program had a significant impact on participants. Now, thanks to a fiveyear grant awarded through 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the Illinois State Board of Education, SCORES and the LEARN 8 community are uniquely positioned to provide expanded enrichment

programs throughout the year to support students and families.

Ryan Rampetsreiter, Principal of LEARN 8 Middle School, 3021 West Carroll Street in Chicago, readily welcomed the invitation to take programming even further. Being awarded a 21st Century Illinois State Board of Education grant, America SCORES and LEARN 8 Middle School immediately began meeting the needs of the school's students and families. With programs like Cooking, Poetry, Math Enrichment, Basketball, French, Soccer, Writing, Cheerleading, Hip-Hop Dance, and GED Preparation on the way, parents are pleased and kids are excited.

Corey Riley and Tavares Briggs, LEARN 8's basketball coaches, regularly run rigorous basketball skills training and competitive practices. Boys are mentored by both coaches and are not only put through drills that develop their performances, but are also taught fundamentals like integrity, commitment, and sportsmanship. The teams have won several championships across the city of Chicago and have also participated in the City Semi-finals.

Vernita Williams, cheerleading coach for LEARN 8 Middle School, is also a trailblazer. She instills within her cheerleading squads attributes like teamwork, dependability, and excellence. Her teams have won six championships under her direction and she

is both respected and loved by staff, parents, and students.

LEARN 8 Middle School, 3021 West Carroll Street, serves 6th through 8th grade students. Persons interested in learning more about the school's curriculum and extracurricular programming, plus enrollment information, should call Kelli Moore at (773) 584-4300.

Exploring the options that *America SCORES Chicago* offers in your local school communities is highly encouraged. As an educational community, LEARN 8 believes that we can make a difference in all the lives we touch. It simply starts with a partnership. Please don't hesitate to call Ethan Armstrong at (320) 815-2351 and become a world-changer today.



Vernita Williams puts her cheerleaders through a practice to get every movement synchronised. (Photos by Brad)



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