



THE *Michael Finley*  
FOUNDATION

## OUR MISSION

The Michael Finley Foundation is dedicated to inspire, develop, and enhance the skills in our youth and their families. Our ultimate goal is to instill confidence, enabling them to achieve their personal and professional aspirations.

## OUR VALUES

Responsibility | Diversity | Integrity  
Excellence | Commitment | Learning | Health



# WHY G.I.F.T.4.S



The Michael Finley Foundation was created to bring educational opportunities to children across North Texas.

## BACKGROUND

The Michael Finley Foundation (TMFF) is a nonprofit organization providing support for children and their families in the North Dallas area. Our goal is to inspire, develop, and enhance the skills in our youth and their families. The ultimate goal is to instill confidence, enabling them to achieve their personal and professional aspirations. Our program objective is to offer classes and workshops to students and parents throughout their education life in North Dallas and to provide them with choices to achieve their personal goals beyond high school with parental support.

TMFF, established in 2003, provides community support to children and their families. The foundation is committed to helping families through education, entrepreneurial mentorship, counseling, social skills, and other programs. TMFF began with the creation of basketball camps for youth. Free basketball camps afforded the opportunities to develop not only basketball skills but teach children the importance of teamwork and communication. In addition, the foundation has donated to several organizations over the years. TMFF hosted the “Finley and Friends” golf tournament to benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation of North Texas, teamed up with Buckets for Hunger and the North Texas Food Bank to raise over \$77,000 with the Thanksgiving Challenge. The foundation for the past four years donated to the Jordan Community Development Youth Empowerment Program. TMFF has also endowed a scholarship for student-athletes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Recently, TMFF has conducted various events such as speaking to elementary students concerning the importance of academics and health. TMFF delivered turkeys in partnership with a local church to feed students and their families during the Thanksgiving holidays. TMFF also collected donations for the Salvation Army in the famous Red Kettle Fund Drive. Star Power Companies sponsored a golf tournament for the foundation; donations will go to purchase needed computers for the program. Neal Hawks, board member, and Michael Finley donated Dallas Cowboys football tickets sponsoring students and their families from Sheffield Elementary for a relaxing evening. On December 3rd, Tiff’s Treats will donate proceeds toward those same computers and supplies during their grand opening. January 13, 2017, Phil Hellmuth will host the foundation’s first Texas hold’em poker charity event. All donations will provide monies for the G.I.F.T.4.S. program to begin July 2017. Over the years, TMFF realized the need to enhance their outreach to children and their families. Hence, the creation of a more hands on programming methodology like G.I.F.T.4.S.



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## NEED FOR THE G.I.F.T.4.S. PROGRAM

Summer learning loss contributes to deficiencies in various areas. In the past, school districts used the summer for remediation. According to Cooper, Benson, and Fairchild (2010) statistics show disadvantaged children after 5th grade are nearly three grade equivalents behind their peers in reading. Summer programs are able to increase reading performance. In fact, Professor Geoffrey Borman (2015) stated schools should implement summer programs showing success.

Research into the North Texas summer learning indicates students in some school districts are not receiving support beyond the school year. For example, several school districts provide free summer school for grade levels promoted upon passing the state exam in essential subjects. Other school districts may provide summer programs for those in the gifted and talented programs; however, they must pay various amounts.

Although some school districts are successful in multiple areas, the impact of budget cuts in the 82nd Legislature January of 2011 continues to have a profound effect on educational programs in the independent school districts across the state of Texas. Public schools saw a \$4 billion reduction which translated from 6 to 9 percent of budget reductions in some districts. The house proposed recent changes to school budgets; however, the initial reduction does not allow the school districts to make new changes. It is an opportunity to rebuild to previous levels before the reduction. Currently, few independent school districts offer elementary summer school programs below the fifth grade level. In the target area, some school districts provide various academic or enrichment activities during the school year. Research shows some districts charge as much as \$150 per session. Low economic students may be offered some type of discount. However, some families are unable to afford the cost. Therefore, it is imperative to implement the pilot program entitled G.I.F.T.4.S. providing students and school districts a chance to decrease summer learning loss.

## GOAL

The goal of The Michael Finley Foundation (TMFF) is to provide the skills North Texas children and families need to succeed. Ultimately, we aim to instill confidence, enabling them to achieve their personal and professional aspirations. TMFF will structure programming around academic programs (math, reading, and science) aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Implementing Bloom's Taxonomy will integrate all levels of critical thinking skills. Life skills and group counseling will enhance positive changes in behavior and attitudes toward education,



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family connections, and peer association. Technology will develop knowledge concerning design, application, and programming. The health and wellness program focuses on the importance of taking care of self mentally and physically. Family involvement is essential to heighten awareness of on goings in the school, community, city, state, and government.

## OBJECTIVES

The Michael Finley Foundation's objectives are designed to develop students in various areas. Our program objectives entail offering classes and workshops to students and parents throughout their educational careers. Furthermore, students acquire the art of making choices to achieve their personal goals beyond high school with parental support. Our aim is for 100% of program participants to actively seek either jobs or higher education within one year of graduating from high school.

Objective 1: Students will receive life skills and group counseling three times a week to develop responsibility for educational achievement, financial knowledge, and development of social skills.

Objective 2: Students will strengthen and develop their skills and grades in reading, math, science, and technology after one year.

Objective 3: Students are provided health and wellness three times a week to experience learning a variety of sports (basketball, volleyball, tennis, and golf). Moreover, students develop an understanding of the importance of nutrition, and how one's physical health contributes to achieving their personal undertakings.

Objective 4: Students will receive education on the fine arts. A database compiled by researchers from UCLA indicate students involved with the arts perform better on standardized achievement tests than students with low arts involvement.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The G.I.F.T.4.S program is designed to support elementary through high school students and their families. The reading, math, science, and technology programs are based on the Common Core State Standards initiative. Bloom's Taxonomy is implemented in each subject to provide learning at various stages. For example, critical thinking questions are asked to target students of all ages and English language learners. Throughout the four weeks, students are required to actively participate in taking responsibility for their learning.



# WHY G.I.F.T.4.S



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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION CONT.

TMFF initiated Giving Individuals Fundamental Tools 4 Success (G.I.F.T.4.S.) as the flagship program for a direct response to support elementary students through high school. The inaugural year will support 75 students for a duration of four weeks beginning July 2017. The G.I.F.T.4.S. program is unique as to it involves family support in conjunction to students throughout the school year. Certified teachers will focus on the core subjects, math and reading. A certified trainer educates students on health and wellness. The students participate in classes on proper nutrition and an introduction to a variety of sports and exercise. Fine arts are a part of the curriculum merged with field trips to provide experiences beyond the classroom. Social skills and group counseling ensures children and parents learning necessary skills and strategies in understanding self as well as others. Technology is implemented to enhance students' learning beyond usage of computers, and social media. For example, students will learn programming to increase their depth of knowledge in relation to computers.

Parents are essential to the success of the G.I.F.T.4.S. initiative. Students and parents are interviewed to communicate everyone's role in the program. Both students and parents must sign a contract committing to helping each other achieve their personal endeavors. In other words, without support for everyone within the immediate family, it is difficult to work together as a family. Parents must attend parent educational classes once a week during the four week program. During the school year, the families will meet once a month to discuss and review within their community.

## CURRICULUM

**Eureka Math** is a program approaching math connecting to the real world. This program focuses on students comprehending how to solve real-world problems. Even more, the program increases capabilities in doing mental math. Eureka math consists of materials for teachers, students, and parents. The design of the program supports assessing and providing response to interventions. Therefore, students are motivated to excel in preparation for their next grade level during the summer.

**Fine Arts** will consist of certified art and music teachers exposing students to art and music. Field trips are implemented to heighten the students' awareness of education beyond the academic arena.



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## CURRICULUM CONT.

**Health and Wellness** will consist of learning about the importance of nutrition and sports. Certified trainers and coaches will create an atmosphere of teamwork and competition among the students. Fitness is combined with learning strategies in basketball, volleyball, golf, and tennis. The North Texas Food Bank will provide healthy snacks, breakfast, and lunch.

**Life Skills and Group Counseling** are rotated throughout the schedule to prepare students to achieve their personal goals. Life skills consist of several factors. For example, Gillian M. Breidenbach will provide volunteers to foster the importance of financial education. Carolyn Payne with Rainbow Days, teaches lessons concerning drugs, alcohol, and making life choices. Licensed counselors provide group counseling and life skills to develop relationships. College and career fairs will assist students in developing their interests beyond high school.

**Read 180** is a reading intervention program targeting individualized needs of students regardless of their levels. It provides whole-group learning, station rotations, and whole-group instruction. The station rotations included student application, independent reading, and small-group learning. It is critical to model various ways of teaching for students to excel as independent learners.

**Technology** is combined with two types of rotations for the four week program. One rotation consists of IBM's Romelia Flores, master inventor, providing volunteers integrating science and technology. The volunteers will work with the students two times per week. One example of a lesson is entitled Fuel Cell Car Student Guide. This lesson instructs the students on building and running an electric, solar powered, and fuel cell cars. In this particular lesson, students use critical thinking skills analyzing their strategies in refueling during the race. The second part to the technology course consists of teaching code streaming three times per week. Harold Strong developed a curriculum involving Code Streaming. Beginning with elementary students, it teaches computational thinking while establishing a personal connection with learning. Middle school students cultivate an appreciation for coding integrated with developing career and college readiness skills. High school students are exposed to coding through creations of web pages, progressing to mobile apps eventually manipulating live data to solve "real world problems". Harold Strong's curriculum focuses on making computational thinking a priority for students.



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## SCHEDULE

G.I.F.T.4.S. is a four week program conducted in the month of July. The doors will open at 7am and close at 6pm. The following is a detailed schedule for the summer of 2017.

Groups 1, 2, and 3 represent the rotations of students through different subject areas. Each group contains a sub-group of A, B, and C which is representative of the individual grade levels.

Health & Wellness (H & W) and Life skills (LS) - Mon, Wed, and Fri  
Fine Arts (FA) & Group Counseling (GC) - Tues and Thurs  
Technology (Tech) - Five days a week



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## SCHEDULE CONT.

Daily Schedule	<b>Groups A: 3rd, 6th, &amp; 9th</b>	<b>Groups B: 3rd, 6th, &amp; 9th</b>	<b>Groups C: 3rd, 6th, &amp; 9th</b>
7:30AM-7:40AM	Morning Motivation & Inspiration	Morning Motivation & Inspiration	Morning Motivation & Inspiration
7:45AM-9:15AM	<b>Reading: ALL Group As</b>	<b>Math: All Group Bs</b>	<b>Science: All Group Cs</b>
9:20AM-10:50AM	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Groups: 3C &amp; 6C</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 9C</b>	<b>Math:</b> <b>Groups: 3A &amp; 6A</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 9B</b>	<b>Science:</b> <b>Groups: 3B &amp; 6B</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 9A</b>
10:55AM-11:40AM	<b>Lunch: 3A</b> <b>LS/GC: 6A</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 9A</b>	<b>Lunch: 3B</b> <b>LS/GC: 6B</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 9B</b>	<b>Lunch: 3C</b> <b>LS/GC: 6C</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 9C</b>
11:45AM-12:30PM	<b>Lunch: 6A</b> <b>LS/GC: 9A</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 3A</b>	<b>Lunch: 6B</b> <b>LS/GC: 9B</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 3B</b>	<b>Lunch: 6C</b> <b>LS/GC: 9C</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 3C</b>
12:35PM-1:20PM	<b>Lunch: 9A</b> <b>LS/GC: 3A</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 6A</b>	<b>Lunch: 9B</b> <b>LS/GC: 3B</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 6B</b>	<b>Lunch: 9C</b> <b>LS/GC: 3C</b> <b>H&amp;W/EA: 6C</b>
1:25PM-2:55PM	Reading: Groups: <b>3B</b> & <b>9C</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group 6A</b>	Math: Groups: <b>3C</b> & <b>9A</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group 6B</b>	Science: Groups: <b>3A</b> & <b>9B</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group 6C</b>
3:00PM-4:30PM	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Groups: 6B &amp; 9B</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 3A</b>	<b>Math:</b> <b>Groups: 6C &amp; 9C</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 3B</b>	<b>Science:</b> <b>Groups: 6A &amp; 9A</b> <b>Tech:</b> <b>Group: 3C</b>

# SPONSORSHIPS

The Foundation is committed to being an exceptional steward of our donors' generous contributions, ensuring these funds are utilized to the maximum benefit of our community, and that our programs are continually evaluated to assess their effectiveness.

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE - \$30,000

YOUR GIFT ENTITLES YOU TO:

- marketing leverage through print, web and social media advertising for the company
- invitations for eight people to every regular Foundation event
- logo and name prominently featured at all Foundation events
- logo and name printed in event literature and programs
- logo and name featured on website
- logo and name printed in quarterly newsletter, *The Report Card*

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE - \$20,000

YOUR GIFT ENTITLES YOU TO:

- invitations for six people to every regular Foundation event
- logo and name prominently featured at all Foundation events
- logo and name printed in event literature and programs
- logo and name featured on website
- logo and name printed in quarterly newsletter, *The Report Card*

### HONORS - \$15,000

YOUR GIFT ENTITLES YOU TO:

- invitations for four people to every regular Foundation event
- logo and name featured on sponsor boards at all Foundation events
- logo featured on printed invitation to two featured events
- logo featured on website
- recognition in quarterly newsletter, *The Report Card*

## MAKING YOUR GIFT

Contributions can be made by check or online via PayPal.

### BY CHECK

Make checks payable to  
The Michael Finley Foundation  
and mail to:

**The Michael Finley Foundation**  
PO Box 560823  
The Colony, Texas 75056

### BY PAYPAL

Visit [MichaelFinleyFoundation.org](http://MichaelFinleyFoundation.org)  
and click on the **Donate** link.

### QUESTIONS?

Please email us at  
[michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com)  
or call **469-630-2854**  
for more information.

# CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES



We aim to create strong partnerships with our friends in the business community. Our programs give your company numerous ways to engage with us – from sponsored events to volunteer opportunities and more.

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## **MARKETING**

The Michael Finley Foundation can provide you with opportunities to market your products and services to our many clients and stakeholders through our website, newsletters, speaking engagements and media placements.

## **EVENTS**

We welcome your staff to participate in events and fundraising activities with us, enabling your organization to engage with the local community and develop invaluable new networks.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

The Foundation can work with your team to participate in hands-on volunteering projects within our G.I.F.T.4.S. (Giving Individuals Fundamental Tools 4 Success) program or other educational initiatives.

## **WORKPLACE GIVING**

Your staff can donate to our programs through convenient payroll contributions.

As a corporate sponsor, your support directly contributes to the success of students and families across North Texas, helping them achieve their full potential regardless of their socio-economic status.

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## **PARTNER WITH US TODAY!**

To explore corporate sponsorship opportunities with The Michael Finley Foundation and our flagship G.I.F.T.4.S. program, please email us at [michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com) or call **469-630-2854**.

# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



The Michael Finley Foundation was created to bring educational opportunities to children across North Texas, and our educational partners are critical to our success.

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## GIVING INDIVIDUALS FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS 4 SUCCESS

Our flagship program is G.I.F.T.4.S. (Giving Individuals Fundamental Tools 4 Success), a comprehensive initiative designed to help reduce summer learning loss. Set to begin in the summer of 2017, G.I.F.T.4.S. supports children, teens and adults through academia, athletics, counseling and parental/guardian support.

G.I.F.T.4.S. provides a structured environment to promote strong academics, social skills, community service, physical fitness and health. Beginning with promoted third, sixth and ninth graders, the program will expand each year to ensure that once children enter the program, they can continue participating until they graduate from high school.

Our hope is that every student who successfully participates in the G.I.F.T.4.S. program will emerge armed with the skills needed to succeed in the classroom and as a citizen of North Texas and the world.

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## PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

As an educational stakeholder, your support can ensure G.I.F.T.4.S. reaches the students and parents who can most benefit from its innovative summer curriculum. And when your students participate, they return to your school better prepared to take on the challenges of their grade level.

To learn more about how you can support G.I.F.T.4.S. at your school, please email us at [michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com) or call **469-630-2854**.



# LEND YOUR SUPPORT



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## **GIVING INDIVIDUALS FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS 4 SUCCESS**

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## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

As an important voice in our community, your organization can provide much-needed financial and material support to the Foundation. Your help is vital to our efforts to:

- employ G.I.F.T.4.S. professionals
- secure facilities for our programs
- recruit volunteers
- promote G.I.F.T.4.S. to schools, students and parents

You can help by donating monetary gifts for stipends or scholarships or by providing in-kind gifts such as school materials, computers, furniture, sports equipment and more.

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## **PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT**

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# RECAP ABOUT G.I.F.T.4.S.



It is said that if you're not moving forward, you're falling behind. Nowhere is this truer than in American primary and secondary education.

When a child goes on summer break in June, he or she returns to school in August having regressed in reading and math. Many students get back up to speed quickly. Others take longer. And those who struggle may find they are falling further and further behind their peers with every passing school year, ultimately deciding to drop out. Low-income students lose an average of more than two months in reading achievement in the summer, while their middle-income peers tend to make gains in reading. By the end of fifth grade, disadvantaged children are nearly three grade equivalents behind their more affluent peers in reading. Studies show six-week summer learning programs can produce statistically significant gains in reading performance.

The Michael Finley Foundation's flagship G.I.F.T.4.S. initiative aims to change that math by Giving Individuals Fundamental Tools 4 Success. G.I.F.T.4.S. enrolls students with educational difficulties into a structured environment over the summer months so they can continue their learning in critical subjects like reading, science, math and technology.

G.I.F.T.4.S. accepts students based on their needs, not on their racial backgrounds or economic means. We help the kids who need it most, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

Once students enter the program, we continue to work with them through summers and school years to come, continually building their skills, knowledge and confidence. So instead of falling behind, they move forward – and discover the bright future that is right before them.

## QUICK FACTS

LAUNCH DATE .....	SUMMER 2017
PROJECTED 2017 ENROLLMENT .....	75 STUDENTS
STUDENT TUITION .....	FREE
SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED .....	1
PROGRAM COUNSELORS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF .....	30



## PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

To contribute online, please visit [MichaelFinleyFoundation.org](http://MichaelFinleyFoundation.org) and click on the **Donate** link.

## LEARN MORE

Please email us at [michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfinleyfoundation@gmail.com) or call **469-630-2854** for more information about G.I.F.T.4.S or The Michael Finley Foundation.