



Alliance Center
for Education

2024 Summer/Fall Newsletter

Congratulations to our
Kindergarteners!

A Summer of Fun!

Early Head Start

AC4Ed Outcomes for
2023-2024

A Lasting Legacy

Upcoming: Jim
Langstaff Golf Classic

Support Back to
School!



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**Congratulations
to all of our graduating pre-K students!
Have a great year in Kindergarten!**

and

**Welcome back to this year's students!
Have a great year!**





A Summer of Fun with AC4Ed Summer Camp!

That's a wrap! The **2023-24 Out of School Time** program year concluded in August with summer camp. Nearly 100 summer campers had a blast all summer, participating in engaging enrichment activities, field trips, and tours, all while sharpening their academic focus in preparation for the new school year.

The campers shared their summer achievements during the end of program **Summer Showcase** event on August 2, bringing the day camp to a joyful close.

The following week, nearly 50 campers joined staff and volunteers for resident camp at Asbury Hills Retreat Center in Cleveland, SC. This overnight camping experience gave the students an opportunity to connect with nature and each other, all while learning valuable skills and having a great time!

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, partners, funders, and campers for a great summer!





Beginning Early with Early Head Start

Our **Early Head Start** program is tailored to the needs of infants and toddlers, promoting physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. Early Head Start programs provide similar services as preschool **Head Start** programs, and this early educational foundation sets children up for continued growth and development, and success in school and life. The model supports mothers and fathers in their roles as parents and teachers of their children. We provide comprehensive support services to help families meet their personal goals and find stability in the areas of housing, continued education and financial security.

Both service options—[home visitation](#) and center-based options—provide opportunities for the families to get together through our socialization activities twice per month. These



socializations give additional opportunities for our youngest students and their families to become familiar with each other and allow the students to play in a structured, nurturing environment. Some examples of our socialization activities include field trips to [ImaginOn](#), story time at local libraries, painting activities, and much more.

To learn more about the benefits of an **Early Head Start education**, click here to visit the [Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center](#).

Meeting Benchmarks: Analyzing AC4Ed Outcomes

Alliance Center for Education strives to provide high-quality education for all students that will help prepare them for school and for life. To ensure that we meet this goal, AC4Ed analyzes student development using specific benchmarks to find out are working well and where teachers may need to focus in the upcoming year.

To the right are some of the results for **Early Head Start program year 2023-2024** at the end of Summer. Teachers particularly noted the need to increase Literacy outcomes in the upcoming year.

Domains	Summer 2024
Social/Emotional	89%
Physical	76%
Language	76%
Cognitive	82%
Literacy	61%
Mathematics	76%

The **Head Start program** focused on **Cognitive Development** for the 2023-2024 Program year, citing it as crucial to the overall development of a child. This focus showed in the increase in Cognitive Domain—from 64% to 85%! Other sections also showed significant growth.

Domains	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Social/Emotional	81%	88%
Physical	81%	84%
Language	72%	83%
Cognitive	64%	85%
Literacy	81%	90%
Mathematics	78%	88%

Did you know that the **Alliance Center for Education** partners with **Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** to offer dual-language Head Start education? The second year of this partnership generally showed improved outcomes in most focus areas.

TSG Final Results Comparison	Summer 22/23	Summer 23/24
Social-Emotional	97.4%	98.1%
Physical	100%	96.2%
Language	84.5%	89.4%
Cognitive	89%	95%
Literacy	92.6%	96.5%
Math	91%	96.2%
Spanish Language	87.6%	85%
Spanish Literacy	85.7%	84%

A Lasting Legacy Celebrating Early Education in Mecklenburg County

On Wednesday, August 21, 2024, early education teachers and their supporters alike gathered at the Revelry at Camp North End for **A Lasting Legacy: A Celebration of Early Education in Mecklenburg County**.

Our guests enjoyed a lively and dynamic presentation by keynote speaker Niki Spears, an educator and mother. Her presentation focused on how teachers could keep a positive mindset and care for themselves as they taught the lights of the future.

An audience highlight included a presentation featuring AC4Ed volunteer, Dimetris Craig, and AC4Ed teacher, Sonya McCrea, who asked each other about the importance of their roles and the impact on students and the community.

AC4Ed CEO, Jared Keaton, also spoke briefly about the importance of AC4Ed and the work we will do this year. Future board chairman, Anthony Stradford, himself a Bethlehem Center graduate, discussed how Bethlehem Center (now AC4Ed) changed his life and asked the audience to consider his example when making donations for the future.

Many thanks to **PNC Bank**, our primary sponsor, as well as all of the other sponsors and volunteers who made this event happen.



AC4Ed CEO, Jared Keaton, and guest presenter, Niki Spears



Ubuntu Day

A Day of Service with the United Women in Faith



On Saturday, October 5, 2024 we were pleased to be joined by representatives from many United Methodist churches in the Metro District for their annual day of Service, known as **Ubuntu Day**.

We enjoyed spending time with the **United Women in Faith** as we prepared the Stars for our **Holiday Sharing** program, which provides our students with a new book, hat, and gloves before the holiday break. The ladies graciously helped us by cutting out hundreds of stars and organizing them based on our center and classroom locations for easy distribution to churches, partners, companies, and others. We look forward to Ubuntu Day every year and this year was our largest gathering yet!

Thank you, **United Women in Faith**, for a wonderful day!





Jim Langstaff (right) and his daughter, Kim Langstaff (left) manning the putting contest at last year's tournament!

Get Ready for the Jim Langstaff Golf Classic!

On Monday, November 18, 2024, the Alliance Center for Education will host its 25th Annual Golf Tournament-with an exciting twist.

To honor our long-time AC4Ed supporter and golf-tournament founder, Jim Langstaff, AC4Ed has renamed the tournament as the **Jim Langstaff Golf Classic.**

Be sure to congratulate Jim when you see him on the green!

Save the Date

Time: Shotgun Start at Noon

Date: November 18, 2024

Location: Pine Island Country Club

Sign up today at

<https://www.ac4ed.org/golftournament!>

How to Support AC4Ed

By supporting AC4Ed, you help provide high-quality education for children in need in partnership with their families. We rely heavily on community support to enrich the classroom experience. There are many ways you can support AC4Ed today!

Donate

Visit <https://www.ac4ed.org/donate> to donate online or to find other ways to make donations.

Get us something from our Wishlist

Our centers often need supplies. Purchase an item from our Amazon Wishlist:

<https://a.co/49bDfRt>

Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering with AC4Ed? Head over to

<https://www.ac4ed.org/getinvolved>



As our students settle back to school, you can support them by getting a classroom item from our Amazon Wishlist!