



# POWER SCHOLARS ACADEMY SOUTH SOUND YMCA



This report presents outcomes of Power Scholars Academy (PSA), a holistic learning experience that blends academics with enrichment, social emotional learning and community service.

## PROGRAM GOALS

- Increase literacy and math skills
- Strengthen self-confidence, social-emotional learning and wellness
- Increase parental engagement
- Build a stronger connection with local schools and the community



**281**  
grade K-5  
scholars

**87% ADA**

**5 weeks**



**SIGN LANGUAGE  
STOP-MOTION  
DANCE  
SWIMMING**

**5 days per week**

**45 hours of math**

**45 hours of literacy**



**38**  
educators  
trained

## ACADEMICS

Literacy and math skills gains are an important indicator of student success, and are measured via pre- and post assessments. Without intervention, under-resourced children lose an average of 2 months of skills each summer. Power Scholars not only halted this summer slide, but improved them by:

**+1** average reading gains in months      **+0.5** average math gains in months

## GROWTH MINDSET

Scholars believe their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work, fostering a love of learning.

**87%** of parents reported improved abilities to overcome challenges      **62%** of teachers said scholars exhibited growth mindset

## SELF-CONFIDENCE

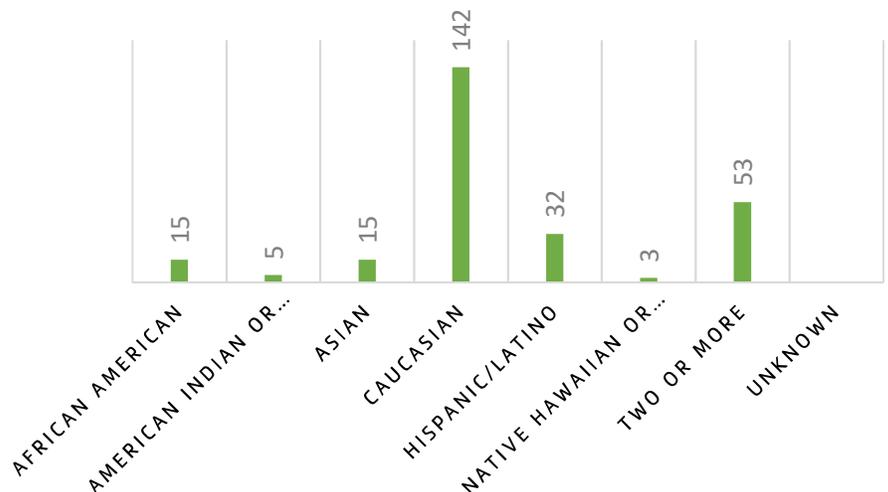
An integral element that affects every aspect of scholars' goals.

**88%** of parents reported an increase in their child's confidence      **71%** of teachers reported an increase in scholars' confidence      **86%** of parents reported their child having a more positive attitude about school

## SCHOLAR DEMOGRAPHICS

Male: 152  
Female: 114

## RACE/ETHNICITY





"I am very thankful and grateful for the opportunity to work at Lacey Elementary this summer for Power Scholars. I was challenged for sure, but the scholars were all a blessing to be around, and I truly believe I am a better educator for being part of this experience." - Jim Mills, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Lacey Elementary School

## ENRICHMENT



Enrichment courses were designed to foster critical 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills like teamwork and leadership, increase self-confidence, and expose scholars to new subjects, opportunities, and career paths. Scholars rotated through the following courses

- Swim Lessons at the Briggs YMCA
- Creative Arts
- STEM
- Stop-Motion Filmmaking
- Sign Language
- Dancing/Music

## FIELD TRIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Field trips supported learning by exposing scholars to diverse ideas, people, and places, and nurturing increased empathy, tolerance, and critical-thinking skills. Excursions included trips to:

- Museum of Pop Culture
- Seattle's International Fountain
- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
- Washington State Patrol
- Timberland Regional Library
- Lacey Chief of Police



## SCHOOL PARTNERS

- Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School
- Garfield Elementary School
- Lacey Elementary School



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- City of Lacey
- North Thurston Education Foundation



## FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

- The Medina Foundation
- North Thurston Education Foundation
- Lacey Rotary
- Nisqually Tribe
- WSECU
- The Community Foundation
- Kiwanis
- Umpqua Bank

