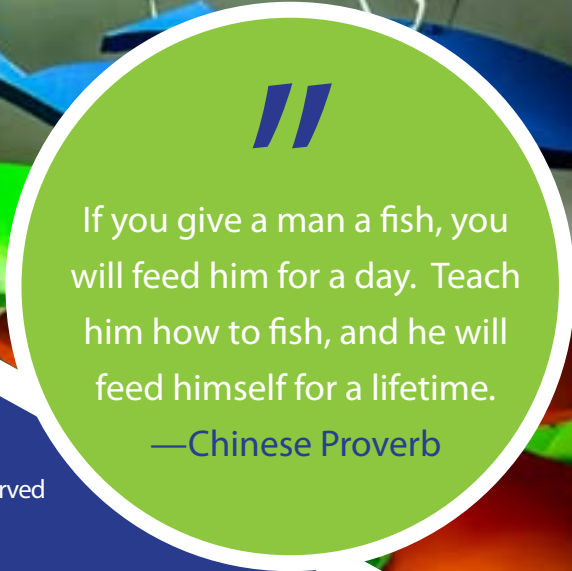




the fishing school

The Fishing School (TFS) is a nonprofit serving the Washington, DC communities most in need. Since 1990, our academic after-school, summer, and parent engagement programs have engaged more than 7,000 youth and their families. With 30 years of experience, TFS combines a deep understanding of industry research and best practices with an extensive understanding of the under-served communities in which we work.

In 1990, Tom Lewis, a former Metropolitan Police Department officer, renovated a former crack house and opened TFS on Wylie Street, NE in one of the most crime-ridden neighborhoods in DC. Despite being a high school dropout, Mr. Lewis worked to educate himself and earn his GED while in the military. He eventually earned a degree in Administration of Justice from American University through evening classes, while working as an MPD officer during the day. As an MPD officer, Mr. Lewis met many students whose families had been affected by drug use, poverty, and incarceration. Having grown up as one of 16 children in abject poverty, Mr. Lewis understood the need for positive role models and parental figures in children's lives. He promised that once he retired, he would continue to work to bring about positive change for the youth of Washington, DC. He believed then, as we do today, that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Consequently, what started as a program serving five children with an annual budget of \$2,100, has evolved into a research-based, highly effective out-of-school time program that has served over 7,000 youth and their families.



If you give a man a fish, you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will feed himself for a lifetime.

—Chinese Proverb

MISSION

The Fishing School (TFS) is a nonprofit serving the Washington, DC communities most in need. Our mission is to prepare elementary and middle school youth for success in high school and life by improving their academic performance and life skills; and engaging them and their parents in intensive, multi-year, and research-based out-of-school time and parental engagement programs and activities.

THE COHORT MODEL ▶

TFS utilizes the Cohort Model of education in its afterschool programs, a continuous commitment to children and their parents from 1st through 5th grades in which students are grouped into “cohorts” upon enrollment and progress through a multiyear program continuum together. Our programs follow each child through critical benchmarks in their elementary school years to help ensure a successful transition to middle school and high school. Students at TFS have a continuity of experience that may not otherwise be possible through other Out of School Time (OST) providers.

GOALS

The goals of TFS’ programs are to increase participants’ math and reading performance, develop their life skills, and increase parents’ engagement and ability to support student success.



AFTERSCHOOL	SUMMER CAMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math and reading tutorials STEAM projects Life skills Clubs/recreation Technology infusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free full-day programming STEAM Life Skills College Readiness Clubs Technology Infusion

PARENTS

- One-to-one meetings
- Workshops
- School events
- Progress reports
- Resource referrals
- Skill building

ADVANCING STUDENTS

TFS' proprietary, interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to support a student's academic, social, and emotional development. Aligned with Common Core Standards, our curriculum is broken out into units that span six to eight weeks in duration and include the following components:

▶ MATH & READING ◀

Students engage in online reading and math tutorials which offer individualized academic support. On a daily basis, highly trained instructors provide homework help.

▶ STEAM ◀

Weekly STEAM lessons ensure underrepresented minorities and those in underserved communities are exposed to science, technology, engineering, art and math at an early age.

▶ LIFE SKILLS ◀

Activities build basic school success and social/emotional skills. Students are more prepared to be productive and resilient members of society.

▶ READ ALOUDS ◀

Read alouds develop students' early language skills, reinforce their reading and comprehension skills, and build a stronger foundation for school success.

▶ COLLEGE PREP ◀

College readiness activities educate students about historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the college-going process.

▶ CLUBS ◀

TFS-led clubs such as sports, DIY, fitness, and tech club boost self-confidence and foster creativity, physical activity, and team-building.

ENGAGING PARENTS

TFS understands that parents play a pivotal role in student success. As such, engaging parents is an essential part of our work. Using Dr. Joyce Epstein's Framework for Six Types of Involvement, which covers parental engagement, TFS has created a model that is based on research and specifically designed to successfully engage the communities we serve.

Our work with parents begins by establishing trust and rapport. From there, we support parental and student educational goals, nurture the development of peer support groups, and engage parents in meaningful programming as we design activities tailored to parents' interests, needs and talents.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

Since its inception, TFS has served more than 7,000 students and parents in the DC Metropolitan area. Year after year, we demonstrate consistent results with more than 40% of regular attendees showing improvement in reading and math. TFS has consistently been one of the District's Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) largest grantees and has been touted by the organization as a best practice OST model.



Everyone [at The Fishing School] encourages me and tells me 'You do a wonderful, fabulous job with those boys,' and I say 'Yeah, but it takes a village,' and believe me, The Fishing School is a big part of that village.

– TFS Parent

"I remember I used to sit on the banks of the water and try to catch fish. Everybody could catch a fish but me. Every now and then I'd catch a small fish that I should have thrown back, but it was precious to me, and I kept it." —Tom Lewis, Founder

