

LIFE MALE STEAM ACADEMY



EST. WE ARE LIFE 2015

THE FOUNDERS OF LIFE

Dr. Darryl and Reverend Taleeta Canady are the founders of the LIFE Male Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math Academy. They believe that a STEAM-focused curriculum will equip students with the academic skills to compete globally in the 21st century job market.

According to a recent ACT STEM Survey, 40 percent of Pennsylvania students display STEM college/career readiness, but only **10 percent of African American students** possess STEM college/career readiness skills.

THE MISSION OF LIFE

Our mission is to prepare all male scholars for college success and career readiness. We will also serve as a catalyst to increase the presence of African American males in the STEM pipeline.

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE MSA

Our philosophy is based on the belief that there is a critical need to educate male scholars from under-represented groups on how to use technology in ways that foster their own creativity, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving skills.

Instructional practices will emphasize mastery, critical thinking, and innovation which students develop as they progress through the school's integrated, project-based curriculum.

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE MSA

The name, **LIFE Male STEAM Academy**, creates a connection among three important factors regarding the aspirational vision for the academy scholars:

- **LIFE** - The acronym LIFE stands for **Living Intelligently Fulfilling Expectations**.
- **Living**: Develop life-long learners with successful careers who possess the ability to create, develop, and maintain positive relationships in order to be leaders in their families and communities.

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE MSA

- **Intelligently:** Develop multiple intelligences, academic skills, and techniques so students will have the depth and breadth of content, techniques, and academic concepts.
- **Fulfilling:** Develop an appreciation for academic, personal, and professional success.
- **Expectations:** Develop a future first mindset based on an articulation of their goals and appreciation for the possibilities of life.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The 7 “Wells” of the school describe a general set of behavioral norms and expectations for the students as they navigate the Academy.

At LIFE MSA, all students are considered scholars who will embody the following traits:

- 1) A LIFE Scholar is **Well-Read** - Scholars must study to have something to say. Books open doors and allow scholars to have something valuable to contribute to any conversation.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

2) A LIFE Scholar is Well-Traveled - Scholars will be exposed to other cultures, people and places, and learn to celebrate diversity to ensure that everyone is respected, accepted, and appreciated. Seeing the world outside of one's own community opens up a world of possibilities.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

3) A LIFE Scholar is Well- Spoken -
Scholars will develop verbal and written abilities to communicate with precision, grace, confidence, and style. Scholars will be members of an academic community that ignites a passion for learning and inspires habits of critical thinking, collaboration, and self-discipline.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

4) A LIFE Scholar is **Well-Dressed** -- Scholars must model success and represent what is possible. When a young man enters the public as a LIFE scholar, his attire should be representative of a future decision maker and servant leader.

5) A LIFE Scholar is **Well-Balanced** - Scholars will possess healthy minds that reside in healthy bodies governed by healthy values.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

6) A LIFE Scholar is **Well-Connected** - Scholars will be working in collaboration with other brothers, learning as much from each other as in the classroom. As an institutional ideal, brotherhood extends to all students, faculty, and staff. This sense of connectedness and cooperation will be demonstrated in the way all members of the LIFE team work and learn together. The goal is to achieve our most important objective, which is the making of a well-rounded man.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

7) A LIFE Scholar is Well-Led -- Faculty and staff will model success by representing what is possible, providing access to resources as a conduit of information and knowledge, facilitating opportunities by serving as a reference and means to possibility, and inspiring minds to create a burning desire to achieve in LIFE.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- **Male** - LIFE MSA is founded on the core belief that accomplishing high levels of academic achievement for underrepresented African American males is both possible and necessary. First and foremost, we believe that these young men respond consistently and favorably to school environments that promote “high expectations”, utilizing curriculum and instructional pedagogy that result in high levels of academic engagement.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Those high expectations must be accompanied by warm, caring and trusting relationships. Their performance is solidified in an environment where adults support high academic expectations, along with peers with whom they have developed bonded relationships and a shared goal. We believe that the primary ingredients for helping male students to achieve academic success are relationships and relevance that leads to rigor and resilience.

CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- **STEAM** - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math is core to the pedagogical and organizational philosophies of the school. The website STEAM.edu defines STEAM education as Science and Technology, interpreted through Engineering and the Arts, all based in Mathematical elements. According to teachhub.com, “It’s not about spending less time on STEM subjects and more time on art, it’s about applying creative thinking to STEM projects, and sparking students’ imagination and creativity through the arts.”

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Consistent with the Academy's overarching philosophies, the curriculum will provide students in grades K-12 with unique experiences, challenging content, and a variety of well-coordinated learning experiences on a daily basis. **Aligned to PA Core and Academic Standards**, infused with technology, and delivered with cutting-edge best practices, the LIFE Male STEAM Academy curriculum ensures that students will be prepared for the future.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- All curricular activities will promote students' ability to function as active agents in developing their interests, skills, and career goals as they progress toward high school graduation. Instructional methods that will be employed at the school include:
 - 1) Project-based learning in STEM areas,
 - 2) Rigorous inquiry-based approaches to learning in all subject areas,

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- 3) Use of individualized student assessments to identify student needs and define interventions that students may require in order to thrive,
- 4) Extended day/Extended year learning opportunities that promote student learning outside of the classroom,
- 5) Instruction in the creative arts, which adds Art to the school's STEAM curriculum, and
- 6) Character education that molds social and emotional development across K-12th grades.

THE VILLAGE OF LIFE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL

Since its inception, the LIFE MSA model has been shaped through collaboration with experts in pedagogy, STEAM fields, graphic arts, and social justice.

- Partners in the school's development include professionals from the CREATE Lab of Carnegie Mellon University, Community College of Allegheny County, Carnegie Science Center, Drafting Dreams, the Center for Urban Education at University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Robert Morris University, Foundations, Inc. and Point Park University.

The LIFE MSA model integrates the principles of high performing schools into all aspects of operation, from staff selection and training, to curricular materials, and wrap around supports.

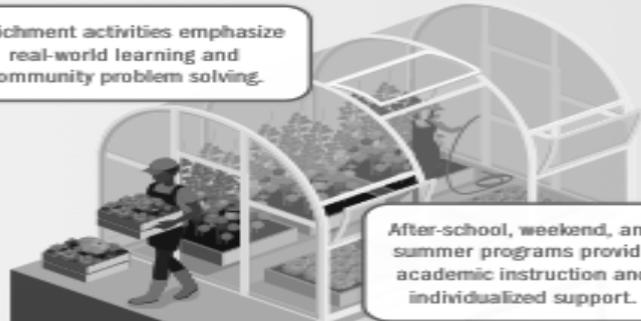
THE VILLAGE OF LIFE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL

LIFE MSA will also include features of the “full-service” community school model. In the spirit of “community schools”, LIFE MSA has spent the last two years developing community partnerships with agencies like the YMCA, local universities, and health and social service providers, to create a school-based social service hub at the school campus.

This school model places high value on the contributions of agencies offering supplemental family services.

What the Four Pillars of Community Schools Look Like in Action

Enrichment activities emphasize real-world learning and community problem solving.



Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.



After-school, weekend, and summer programs provide academic instruction and individualized support.



Promoting interaction among families, administration, and teachers helps families to be more involved in the decisions about their children's education.



Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities

A dedicated staff member coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families.



Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting student success.



Active Family and Community Engagement

Mental and physical health services support student success.



Integrated Student Supports



THE VILLAGE OF LIFE

LIFE Male STEAM Academy will be surrounded by a village of high-quality educators, corporate professionals, and community leaders.

We believe in the adage, “*It takes a village to raise a child*”.

The Village of LIFE will provide wrap around services for the students, their families, and the community.

THE VILLAGE WILL INCLUDE

Science Center &
Technology Maker Space

Health & Wellness
Pavilion

Family Recreation
Center

Public Library

Performing Arts Center

Sportsplex

Center for Spiritual
Enrichment

Community

Engagement Center

University Education
& Research Complex

Corporate Offices

PARTNERS

- **The Heinz Endowments**
- **Eden Hall Foundation**
- **Carnegie Science Center**
- **Carnegie Mellon CREATE Lab**
- **University of Pittsburgh School of Education and Center for Urban Education**
- **Robert Morris University Black Male Leadership Development Institute**
- **CCAC**

PARTNERS

- **Foundations, Inc.**
- **Remake Learning Council**
- **ASSET STEM Education**
- **Fireman Creative**
- **Drafting Dreams**
- **Journey to Medicine**
- **FaithWorks, Inc.**
- **Yamaha**
- **Intel**

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Grades that are in bold will be added that year

- Year 1 (2020-2021)

- 6th, 7th

- Year 2 (2021-2022)

- 6th, 7th, 8th

- Year 3 (2022-2023)

- 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

- Year 4 (2023-2024)

- 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

- Year 5 (2024-2025)

- 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Grades that are in bold will be added that year

- Year 6 (2025-2026)
K-1, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
- Year 7 (2026-2027)
K-1, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
- Year 8 (2027-2028)
K-1, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
- Year 9 (2028-2029)
K-1, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
- Year 10 (2029-2030)
K-1, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

EXPERIENCE LIFE

LIFE MALE STEAM ACADEMY OPENS IN THE FALL OF 2020!

- Registration begins in January of 2020 for rising 6th & 7th grade male scholars.**
- June 2026 Will Be LIFE Male STEAM Academy's First Graduating Class!**

EXPERIENCE LIFE

- **LIFE MALE STEAM ACADEMY will be located in the Penn Center East Complex off of Hwy 22 in Wilkins Township**
- **(Next to Monroeville, Penn Hills, Churchill, Forest Hills, Turtle Creek, Braddock, Swissvale, Rankin, Wilkinsburg, Eastern Suburbs of Pittsburgh, Mon Valley)**
- **For more information visit lifesteam.org**
- **412-867-6209 or 412-709-3480**
- **admin@lifesteam.org**