WHERE WE ARE: MNPS has a history of providing and partnering on robust summer experiences that support academic achievement including credit recovery, literacy, numeracy and STEAM programs. Evaluations of these programs show promising results, however these opportunities have historically been limited to a small number of students.

Summer learning experiences have also traditionally focused on filling learning gaps or preventing summer slide with few opportunities for acceleration. In the minds of many Nashville high schoolers in the academic middle, higher education doesn’t feel like a realistic aspiration: not only do the academic demands seem out of reach, but even the idea of attending college is foreign, nebulous, and daunting. So, despite their great potential to succeed, many students are declining to pursue higher education in the first place. But what if we could - in the space of a summer - boost these students’ academic skills and confidence, demystify the idea of “college,” and inspire them to big dreams about their education and career?

WHERE WE ARE GOING (June – Ongoing):
Growing what Works: Intentional expansion of summer learning experiences for targeted students- growing what works- will connect more students to learning opportunities that will close gaps, accelerate academic growth and prevent learning loss. For K-8, we will expand summer learning opportunities with emphasis on literacy and numeracy and embedded STEAM. For high school students, we will pair credit recovery with college and career access and readiness supports.

The Nashville Promising Scholars Residency will be a selective, cohort-model, summer residential program, targeted at promising high school sophomores in the academic middle. The students will have a four-week, stipended, summer immersive experience on a real college campus, during which they will have access to: rigorous academics from the best educators in the region, inspirational talks from leaders in business and industry, dedicated college & career counseling, hands-on career experiences, one-on-one tutoring from near-peer college students, leadership opportunities, the “social” experience of college, and a sense of belonging and loyalty within a cohort of their peers.

MEASURABLE GOALS:

- Increase the number of students served in targeted summer experiences intentionally designed to grow academic skills, fill gaps and prevent summer learning loss by more than 25 times for summer 2021 (as compared to summer 2019).

- At least 50 MNPS high school sophomores participate in the inaugural Nashville Promising Scholars Residency and 100% earn at least 3 hours of college credit.

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INITIATIVE LEADS:

Dr. Keri Randolph, Exec. Officer of Strategic Investments