



Aim High Kicks Off First Day!

Our program kicked off to an exciting start last Friday! Students from all over St. Louis city and county came ready to start their journey towards becoming Aim High Achievers. The day began with assemblies at each site where teachers introduced themselves and the classes they each teach. Pictured below is Aim High Alumnus David Sanders who comes back each summer to teach 9th grade science and ceramics. We are so lucky to have a dedicated faculty member like Mr. Sanders who embodies Aim High's motto *It all comes back to you!*



After a healthy and delicious lunch, Achievers from all three sites traveled to Villa for a special step performance by [Gentlemen of Vision](#), a group of high achieving high school students. The group has an impressive 100% high school graduation and college admission/retention rate. Students had the chance to learn some steps and show of their moves. Thank you Gentlemen of Vision for an awesome performance and for sharing some of your steps with us!



Head TA Spotlight

Aim High is lucky to have over 100 dedicated teaching assistants this summer! This includes our Head TAs who help Site Directors keep the program running smoothly. Matthew Ludwig is one of our Head TAs at our Priory site and he shared what he loves about Aim High.



How did you get involved with Aim High?

I got involved with Aim High after my freshman year of high school. I had been

looking for a way to volunteer my time in a way that would significantly help other people.

Why did you want to become a Head TA?

I wanted to become a Head TA so I could pay it forward. I have had mentors who have done so much for me and I wanted to do the same for others.

What is your favorite aspect of the Aim High program?

My favorite aspect of the Aim High Program is the kids. The energy they bring to school and other activities like physical fun and electives is really cool to see. Getting to know them is what this program is all about and they can help us as much as we can help them.

Students Speak!

Aim High Achievers shared their insights from the first day in front of all their peers at the program-wide assembly. Some Villa 7th graders (pictured left) shared that they really enjoyed physical fun and lunch. When asked why they decided to come back for another summer of Aim High, they responded they wanted to learn new things and that last year was fun.

Here are some more Achiever thoughts on Aim High:

"Aim High is special because newcomers feel welcome" -Asia, Burroughs Site

"No matter what, they accept you for who you are" -Julia, Priory Site

"At breakfast people welcomed me to sit at their table" -Dominic, Villa Site

