

**Program Excellence**  
**Opportunity Tribe**  
**Fun Academy**

Fun Academy was started in 2013 as a free, six-week summer educational enrichment program designed to tackle the issue of “summer slide” – the loss of 1-3 months of reading ability over the summer seen in at-risk students. Fun Academy provides educational, emotional, and spiritual support each year for almost 250 at-risk kids in grades 3-8 from 23 elementary schools and all 4 Junior Highs within MISD. MISD counselors choose students for having leadership potential while facing difficult situations such as homelessness, trauma, or abuse; 97% of students come from low-income homes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Fun Academy stepped up by continuing their programming. Every student was provided a daily hot lunch, transportation if needed, new books, and fun classes. This year students who consistently came and were tested all improved and none experienced summer slide. Gilbert Ornelas, Fun Academy intern, said, “One of the biggest successes of Fund Academy is giving kids the confidence to find joy in reading, which will ultimately increase their skills.”

By providing academic stimulation in a safe and loving environment, Fun Academy has been, and continues to be, a phenomenal success!



Pictured Laurie Johnson, Executive Director of NMC presenting Trisha Wall, Program Director from Opportunity Tribe the 2020 Program Excellence Beacon Award for Fun Academy.