A&M Sports Academy

Working Harder, Smarter, and Getting Better
WHO ARE WE?
ENRICHMENT TO EVERY ATHLETE

Merging passion, purpose, and athletic performance, A&M Sports Academy is adding value to core values.

Grit. Determination. Confidence. Respect. Loyalty

It’s about more than on-the-court wins, it’s about off-the court achievement.

We’re empowering every student-athlete to work harder, smarter, and getting better in the gym, at home, and in school. Our commitment goes beyond the game of basketball and focuses on the game of life.
HIGH PERFORMANCE VALUES

A&M believes:
• Every underdog deserves a chance to fight

• With the right training and commitment, every underdog can become a big dog

• Every athlete can be an academic achiever

• Every kid, regardless of financial standing, has the right to think, play, and believe in themselves.

• It’s about teaching kids the importance of self-discipline, the power of acceptance, the journey into adulthood and doing it all through the love of sport.

• At A&M Sports Academy, we know that there’s more to a star athlete than a great jump shot

• Through dynamic programming and hands-on guidance, we help kids uncover their athletic talent, explore personal development, and find academic focus through a tight-knit community of mentors, peers, and professional athletes.
OUR FOUNDERS

A&M Sports Academy founders and co-directors Ray Abellard and Andre (Dre) Murray.

Inspired by the rich experiences, deep insight, and unwavering support they received from their mentors while growing up, Ray and Dre committed themselves to creating a space for good players to become great athletes, great athletes to become outstanding academics, and outstanding academics to become purposeful members within their communities.

A&M was founded to provide opportunities for all races, ethnicities, and gender to play sports and learn from each other to accomplish A&M 5 key tenets: Grit. Respect. Confidence. Determination. Loyalty.
RAY ABELLARD

A sought-after personal coach and fitness trainer, Ray Abellard has guided many up-and-coming high school and college prospects in the New York area as co-director of A&M Sports Academy, Owner and Director of HIGH ‘N SOFT, LLC, and Director of basketball at Brant Lake Camp.

As a three-year varsity starter at Brooklyn’s Erasmus Hall High School, Ray made first team all-city and was nominated to the McDonald’s High School All American Teams. Upon graduation, Ray attended Pensacola Junior College for two years where he made first team all-freshman and finished his sophomore season as second team all-Panhandle. He was soon recruited by Uconn, University of Pittsburgh, Iowa State, and Fresno State before signing with the University of Central Florida, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and led the nation in three-point scoring from 2001 to 2002.

Under head coach Kirk Speraw’s guidance, Ray connected 168 three-pointers between 2001 and 2003, sixth highest in the school’s history, and was selected for both UCF Men’s Basketball Top 40 and the All-Atlantic Sun second team.

In 2006 Ray played for the American Basketball Association’s Harlem Strong Dogs and has participated in numerous tournaments in the US and abroad, including Universaire 2005 Olympics in Turkey, Reebok Sports Club, Nike Athletic in China, and Nike Elite’s Jordan Breakfast Club.

“The more you know; The more you don’t know”
As co-director of A&M Sports Academy, head of basketball at Camp Laurel, and head basketball coach at New York City’s Computer School, Andre Murray instills lessons of hard work, consistency, and believe through the game.

His unique approach to athletic training has yielded dynamic results on the court and off. Specializing in agility training, cross training, and a variety of skill development practices, Dre has proven his versatility and knowledge by helping an incredible number of students achieve success in basketball as elementary, high school, college, and professional levels. He has led and assisted workouts with standouts from North Carolina State, Kentucky University, Georgetown University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Fordham University, St. Francis University, University of Southern California, University of California, Seton-Hall University, and Duquesne University.

Drawing on his own defining experiences with basketball, Dre is committed to bridging athletic, academic, and personal gaps in the lives of kids and young adults.

He is a graduate of St. John’s University with a bachelor’s degree in business management and minor in communications. Dre has also participated in the development of leagues throughout New York City and beyond, including those at Reebok Sports Club, Sports Club LA, Hoop Group, Brand Jordan Skill Clinic, and The JCC of Manhattan.

“Your will to achieve is determined by your confidence to succeed”
WHY MENTORSHIP THROUGH SPORTS?

We believe the strongest connections are made when timing, interests, and objectives align. That’s why at A&M Sports Academy, we’re reaching kids right where they are in the language they speak.

We’re the safety zone between parents and teachers, home and school, what is and what’s possible. Through dedicated athletic training, we instill principles and values that will help them achieve new heights on the court, in the classroom, and throughout their communities.
MENTORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Young adults who are at-risk of falling off-track but have a mentor are:

- 55% more likely to enroll in college \(^{(Mentoring.org)}\)
- 78% more likely to volunteer regularly \(^{(Mentoring.org)}\)
- 130% more likely to hold leadership positions \(^{(Mentoring.org)}\)
- Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class. \(^{(Public/Private Ventures Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters)}\)
- Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. \(^{(The Mentoring Effect, 2014)}\)
- In addition to better school attendance and a better chance of going on to higher education, mentored youth maintain better attitudes toward school. \(^{(The Role of Risk, 2013)}\)
MENTORSHIP THROUGH A&M

- Since 2008, A&M has developed relationships with over 300 student-athletes via A&M programs.

- Currently, 65% of A&M’s student athletes have made their school’s Honor Roll and 95% of all students-athletes who started A&M by the time they were in the 6th grade, made Varsity as a freshman in high school.

- Currently, 100% of A&M’s student athletes that maintained their enrollment while in high school graduated from high school.

- Colleges A&M student athletes attended include Cornell University, University of Wisconsin, Penn College, Long Island University, Skidmore College, Pomona College, Kenyon College, Bates College, Erie Community College
In the past few years, A&M has sent 5 Scholarship student athletes from the program to Brant Lake Camp and Camp Laurel for the entire summer.

Since 2008, 11 student athletes entering their Freshman year of high school has participated on the Varsity basketball level.

In the past 5 years, out of the 11 student athletes, 5 of them have made 1st or 2nd All-League team and 4 have accomplished MVP honors.

A&M has produced five 1,000 point scorers in high school, not many athletes get to accomplish this great accomplishment, As the average high school player has to average 15ppg to reach this milestone.

Currently, 95% of A&M’s student athletes maintain an overall academic average of 80% or above.
OUR SEASON

Our September through June season is a dynamic journey that helps student-athletes address issues on the court, at home, and in school. Our season includes:

• Weekend clinics for student-athletes ages 9 - 18.

• A&M Sports Academy All-Star Weekend.

• Travel games in various competitive leagues. Field trips to professional basketball games.

• Leadership seminars designed to promote individual empowerment, effective communication, community service, and academic achievement.

• Preparing for the (CLH) Clean Hands for Haiti project where kids in Haiti are sponsored to attend school. A&M student-athletes find ways to help raise money and awareness for CLH.
Diversity is a cornerstone of the A&M vision, which is why unique scholarship opportunities are offered to student-athletes from all walks of life.

40% of our student-athletes pay full tuition for their A&M experience, but for the other 60% that can’t afford the hands-on athletic and academic support we provide a scholarship program is in place to bridge the financial gap.

We believe, above all, that every child has a right to play, and to uphold that commitment we’re always creating new opportunities to diversify our student-athlete community.
WHAT WE DO

Coaching 6th graders at travel game

Clean Hands For Haiti- Basketball Clinic

A&M Clinics

Tutoring after practice
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

It really does take a village to raise a child, and we’re proud of the community we’ve built to better serve our student-athletes.

CitiDentalGroup
NORTHEAST CARGO & SHIPPING LLC
BLC Brant Lake Camp
UCF
STAPLES
ELIE TAHARI
CAMP LAUREL Maine
The Berk Foundation
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO
“Dre Murray is one of the rising basketball and sports educators in the New York metropolitan area. His energy and enthusiasm is contagious and his skills as a coach and motivator are second-to-none”
- Jem Sollinger, Director of Camp Laurel

“Ray is one of the finest teachers of basketball I have seen and I coached for over 30 years. Ray has great basketball knowledge and is a motivator who displays his love of the game during each and every lesson he teaches. He breaks down skills and eliminates casual habits, replacing them with proper footwork, fundamentals and work habits. His enthusiasm is contagious and he treats all people with respect and dignity. We are proud that Ray has been connected to Brant Lake Camp as our Director of Basketball Improvement.”
- Richard Gersten, Director of Brant Lake Camp

“As a graduate from A&M, there are these internal forces of energy that endure within you. The words of my coaches speak to me in class, at the gym, and at work. Students of this academy understand that as we practice we are giving it our absolute best effort.”
- Jordan Alexis, A&M Sports Academy graduate

“A&M Sports Academy is a youth organization that has a unique athletic program that develops a student-athlete’s character and leadership skills by building their self-confidence and showing them discipline, responsibility, and a healthy lifestyle.”
- Nadeige Bogard, Science Teacher, Basketball Coach, PS 138, Brooklyn, NY

“The best thing I can tell Ray is “Thank You”. Ray has helped me on and off the court from telling me about the Division 1 way of playing basketball to being a great roommate giving me advice on how to spend my time wisely as a Student-Athlete. I learned many things in college, but thanks to my point-guard and roommate I followed my dreams of playing professional basketball”.
- Dexter Lyons, Orlando Magic/ Celtics, A-Sun Def Player of the Year(UCF)
WHY WE NEED YOU
FACTS AND FIGURES

A&M Sports Academy has accomplished a lot already, and with your support we can do so much more, including:

• Fund our $9,050 annual gym expense
• Fund our $2,400 annual cost in tournament fees
• Fund the $2,745 we spend every year on uniforms and travel expenses
• Fund our $100,000 annual operating budget

With strategic investment from key partners, we can strengthen our services and expand our reach now and for years to come.
YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Whether you’ve got a room full of basketball gear or an extra set of hands, A&M Sports Academy is focused on forging strategic partnerships that allow us to strengthen our resources, promote positive initiatives, and create meaningful public-private alliances.

Here are just a few of the ways you can support our mission to merge purpose, passion, and athletic performance:

▪ Sponsor a student-athlete
▪ Donate your money, space, or materials
▪ Become an A&M Sports Academy ambassador
▪ Lecture at an A&M Leadership Seminar
▪ Become an A&M academic mentor
▪ Fund or donate a field trip
GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT

When our backs are scratched, we like to scratch back. That’s why we offer a wide range of promotions to complement your support:

- Social media mentions
- Logo placement on our website
- Inclusion in our comprehensive annual newsletter
- Photos and video content from practices, games, and field trips
WORKING HARDER, SMARTER, AND GETTING BETTER

Together we can empower and enrich the lives of New York City’s student-athletes.

Contact our co-founders and directors for more information about our program, vision for growth, and ways you can get involved.

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THANK YOU!