

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



### CONNECTING CHILDREN, CONNECTING FAMILY, CONNECTING COMMUNITY Fall Newsletter 2020

This past spring and summer the YDC after-school and camp programs were hit by an unseen opponent known as Covid-19. Like many schools and organizations, we had to adjust and change our plans. Even though our YDC summer activities looked a little different from past summers, the YDC family continued to stay connected through a variety of ways. This fall we will continue to maintain our relationship with 52 students and their families by checking in with students and families through phone conversations, texts, and e-mail. Through these conversations we will be able to understand the needs of our families during this difficult time and assist them.

Students will be receiving monthly “After-School” boxes filled with STEM projects, Arts and Crafts, Recipes, and Outdoor activities just like the ones we offer in the after-school program. The boxes will contain all the materials, ingredients, and instructions needed for each activity. Virtual Arts such as a talent show, and drum lessons will be offered to students. We will once again partner with our James Madison University Occupation Therapy students. The JMU students will be providing Behavioral Regulation activities that will be added to the “After-School” boxes as well as a virtual tutoring day. To help students have a better connection to our JMU team we have added a YDC YouTube channel. This channel will help serve with visual instruction as well.



At the request of YDC families, we will offer a mentoring program for YDC students. This program includes previous high school volunteers that have served in the YDC programs.



*“Thank u sooo much for the box of things for Sereniti to do. I was at lunch when it was dropped off...but gave it to Sereniti and she loves the crafts in there. She said thank u and she loves y'all! “*

As we venture into a new school session not knowing what to expect, YDC will continue to find safe ways to connect and support our children, families, and community.

Thank you for serving this community!

*Mike*

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