



R.E.A.C.H. After School Program

21st Century Community Learning Center

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have so much to be thankful for this school year in being able to offer programming in person with our students. Our students have shown such incredible resilience and courage amidst all of the challenges and changes that they have faced this school year. At R.E.A.C.H. we're so inspired by their continued grit and determination as well as their laughter and joy.

We have a lot of successes to celebrate and strides to acknowledge within our program. We have 59 students attending regularly between all four days of programming. As a group we have been able to enjoy The New Balance Foundation's Fit Kit program with Miss Carolyn from Somerset Public Health, in which our students are learning so many wonderful skills for living healthier and more active lives. They have been marking their miles with Ms. Coburn at Run Club and working hard on learning about inclusion and civil rights with Mrs. Jones. They earn bingo prizes mastering their math facts with Mrs. Welch and writing masterpieces with Mrs. Landry. They have all done so well in remembering to wash their hands, keep their masks on and maintain distance so that everyone in their groups can stay healthy. We are so proud of all of their hard work this year.

We also must acknowledge the challenges that we have faced in ensuring that we continue to offer our students a quality program. We often see how hard it is for our students to extend their day past their typical school day and to fully be engaged until 4:30. We see how much they want things to go back to normal and we see how hard it can be for our students to stay regulated and present in each activity that we have planned for them. We are seeing a lot more dysregulated behaviors this year than in previous years. Sometimes that dysregulation can display itself in students being withdrawn and not wanting to participate or, in contrast, students expressing their dysregulation through their body language and verbal communication. Our staff meet almost daily on ways to tweak our program to better support our students and their continued success. They are ALL committed to providing an after school program that fosters not only a supportive learning environment but also creates a safe and calm space where our students can co-regulate, stay engaged and to truly foster our student's social and emotional health and learning.

To allow our staff time to reconstruct programming practices to better meet this goal, **our program will be transitioning to a two week remote learning plan starting March 15th. We will resume in person programming on March 29th.** If you would like your child to participate in the remote learning program and to receive a learning packet (to accompany our google classroom), please fill out this quick online form. <https://forms.gle/xK1TuNGrzD6cFD8D8> While we understand that this creates yet another change for our students, our desire is to finish this year strong and to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment where our students can thrive!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out directly to our program director, Dawn Fickett.

Best,

The R.E.A.C.H. After School Program Staff