

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Program



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS | BRINGING SMART BUSINESS SOLUTIONS | BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD

A strengths-based approach to learning

By equipping students early in life with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully navigate job and career pathways, they will be better prepared later in life to set career goals and create a pathway to achieving those goals and attaining sustainable livelihoods. Melwood has launched the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program to help plant those seeds. The YES program is inclusive of children with and without disabilities, including those with undiagnosed disabilities.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

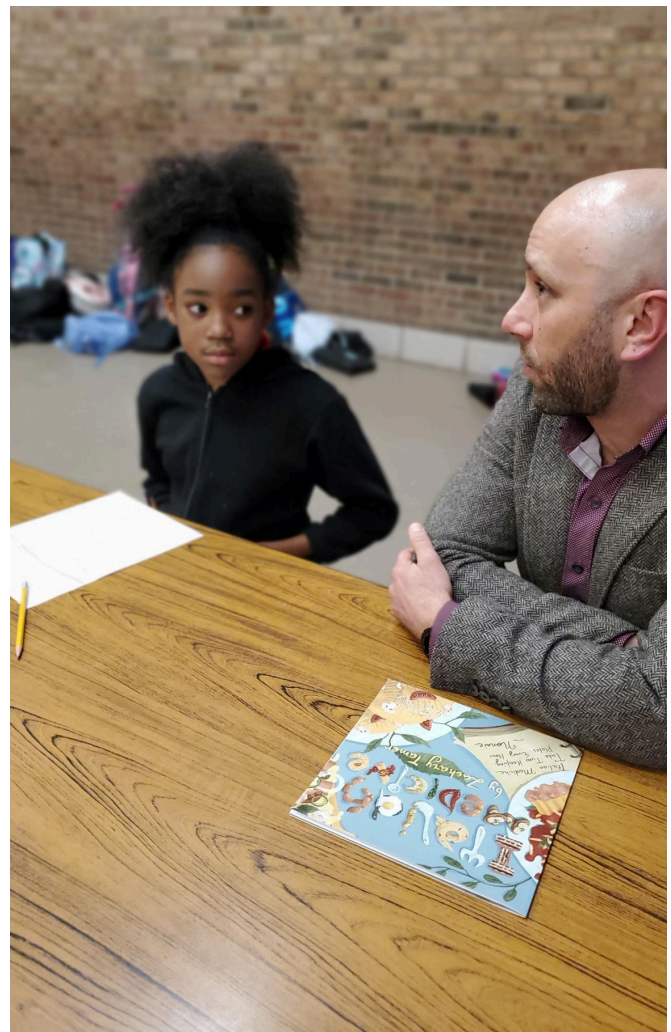
YES may look like a standard after-school program, but it is so much more than that. The program is designed to bring hands-on learning, with a focus on career exploration, to children who have experienced hardships and barriers their entire lives.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

Inclusive communication styles, which have intentionally been built into the program, ensure that all students, including those with diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities, can participate in and benefit from the programming.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

YES fosters a safe, supportive environment for underprivileged students and exposes them to experiences they would not have anywhere else. It is designed to help these students understand that natural interests or hobbies could become pathways out of poverty and into stable careers.



BIG DREAMS

By purposefully investing in underprivileged communities, programs like YES can help young students discover their unique talents and interests, build job-readiness skills, and inspire them to dream big about their lives and their careers. YES is the kind of intervention that can uplift communities and neighborhoods that might otherwise fall through the cracks.

ABOUT YES

The YES Program provides participants with:

- Hands-on learning and exposure to interests and hobbies in a wide variety of areas ranging from STEM and the arts to criminal justice and design
- Mentorship and positive adult role models
- The ability to explore passions, discover skills, and understand that a passion today could become a career pathway tomorrow
- An environment and curriculum that encourages self esteem while fostering independence
- Free snack every day

BENEFITS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The benefits of afterschool programs for children with disabilities are multifold. Research shows children with disabilities who participate in afterschool enrichment programs see improved performance on standardized tests, mastery of individualized education goals, higher grades, improved behavior and increased motivation to learn.



Apple Grove Elementary School in Fort Washington, Maryland is an especially under-resourced community where 75.86% of its students are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARM).

YES served 40 students in the 2023-2024 school year.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
Ramica Chase | rchase@melwood.org

Let's Connect!



5606 Dower House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-599-8000

www.melwood.org