

## YMCA plans school programs

**PAWTUCKET** – As the state plans to reopen schools this fall, the YMCA, which typically offers before- and after-school care to children, will be offering programming to complement whatever option the state chooses to support parents and their children.

Even through the mandated shutdown last spring, the Y continued providing vital services and emergency support to the community, it stated in a press release. Under state reopening guidelines, the YMCA reopened facilities and resumed its in-person programming on June 1, with limits on capacity and other COVID-19 protocols in place. Now the YMCA is stepping up to help parents navigate the upcoming school year, it says.

If schools go back to regular in-school sessions, the YMCA plans to offer its regular school enrichment programming. However, if schools opt for alternating at-school and at-home days, or even decide to go completely virtual, the YMCA will offer programming for children during the days that they are out of school.

The Out-of-School programs will consist of traditional enrichment

activities including swimming, sports, art, STEM, and academic support. The YMCA has been working with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to ensure it is following all guidelines on capacity limits, social distancing, and disinfecting for COVID-19.

The programs will be available for children from kindergarten to 6th grade. If there is a chance parents will need before-school, after-school, or full-day virtual learning care, the YMCA is asking that parents fill out a questionnaire on its website and be placed on its fall registration waiting list. The questionnaire can be accessed on the YMCA's homepage, <https://ymcapawtucket.org/>.

In addition, the YMCA is taking extra steps to help those in need during these difficult times. It is providing food and essential personal items to those in the community who request them through deliveries or grab-n-gos. The YMCA has also set up a lending library of donated books, puzzles, and children's games, which are disinfected before they are put into circulation.

For more information, visit <https://ymcapawtucket.org> or call 401-727-7515.

