

HOME RUN SCHOLARS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

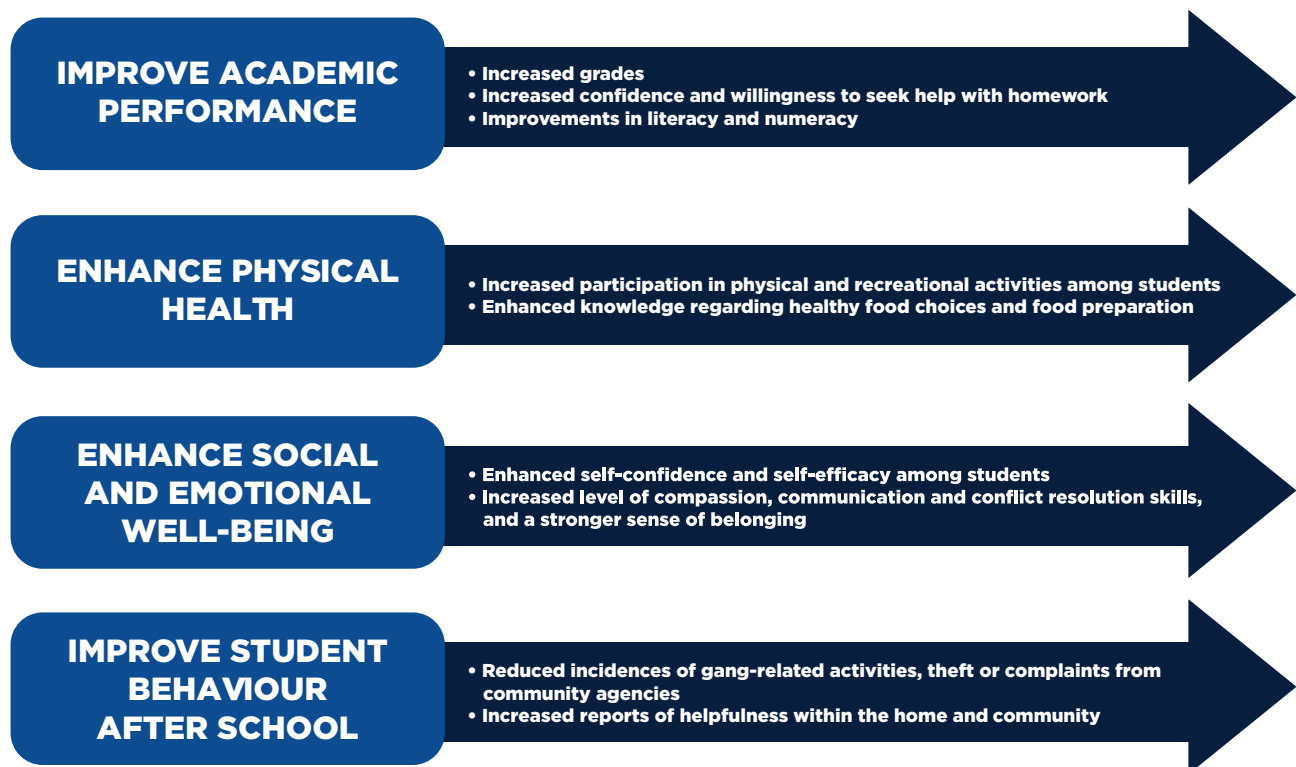
PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2019



In 2011, the TDSB Student Census key findings in underserved communities found that many students struggle academically, lack adult support after school, seldom participate in sports and recreation outside of school and spend more time on TV and/or computer games. As a result the Board advocated for funding for critical after school programs that work to help level the playing field.

Toronto Community Housing Corporation has 2,100 buildings across the city of Toronto and more than 41,000 children aged 6 to 12 living in TCHC buildings. Many of them attend schools across the city that do not have after school programs, and others attend schools with programs that are too expensive. As such, TCHC and Jays Care Foundation have partnered to proudly offer the Home Run Scholars After School program in 8 TCHC buildings in 2018-2019.

The Home Run Scholars After School Program is a dynamic and accessible after school program. Designed in partnership with Toronto Community Housing we support children aged 6-12 years old (Grades 1-6), the program seeks to achieve many significant short and long term goals such as:



At Home Run Scholars we believe that after school programs should provide an opportunity for every child to:

- Work and play with others
- Develop strong and lasting relationships with peers and staff
- Learn new skills and improve existing ones
- Learn more about themselves, their abilities, their limitations, and their potential
- Learn to be a contributing member of the group and of the community
- Learn about the assets and challenges that exist within their community
- Develop the skills required to see obstacles and design solutions to overcome them
- Develop self-confidence and reliance as a leader.



What does the Home Run Scholars Program Include?

The Home Run Scholars After School Program is designed to help every child **FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL**. Here is how we do it:

P

Physically active: For optimal health and development, children need to do 60 minutes of rigorous physical activity each day. That's why the Home Run Scholars program includes a full hour of sport and recreational activities that are designed to get their bodies moving, their hearts pumping, and their muscles active.

O

Organized structure: The Home Run Scholars program schedule is highly structured so that children, staff, volunteers and guardians know what to expect each week. The monthly schedule is posted on the wall for everyone to see.

T

Team environment: Developing essential social and emotional skills like compassion, communication and conflict resolution skills takes time and effort. At Home Run Scholars, each day focuses on helping children participate in team-building activities where they are challenged to take on new roles, support each other, and nurture and develop these essential skills.

E

Emotional-Tanks are full: The Home Run Scholars staff are trained to ensure that each child leaves each day becoming more aware of their own limitless potential. They do this by recognizing their strengths and naming them, by celebrating their efforts and by encouraging others to do the same. They do this by consciously filling each child's emotional tank.

N

Nutritious snacks and healthy cooking: Children at Home Run Scholars receive a healthy snack each day of the program. Home Run Scholars nutrition staff work with groups of children to engage them in the snack/meal preparation process. This includes teaching them about the nutritional benefits of various foods as well as affordable and fun ways to prepare them.

T

Trustworthy, trained and reliable role models: The Home Run Scholars staff come from TCHC communities. As such, they can easily relate to many of the life experiences of the children in the program. These staff are selected because they are experienced, reliable, and create safe and positive environments for all students. They serve as amazing program leaders as well as exceptional role models for every child in the program.

I

Inspiring choices: Children thrive when they are exposed to a wide range of activities and when they have the opportunity to make choices that excite them. That's why each day of the Home Run Scholars program includes a choice time that allows children to practice using their decision-making skills and enables them to further develop in areas that excite them.

A

Assessment and improvement: Each Home Run Scholars program is designed to meet the unique needs of each specific TCHC site. In order to ensure that it is doing this effectively, Home Run Scholars staff conduct fun activities at the end of each month to learn what the children like about the program, and how the program can be improved. By doing this, Home Run Scholars ensures that the program is always evolving and that the voices of the children are at the heart of what we do.

L

Learning: Many children in school fall behind quickly when support with homework isn't available. That's why homework time is an integrated part of the Home Run Scholars after school program. Each day students receive support from their peers and from the staff to complete their required homework and to further nurture their love of learning through fun literacy and numeracy activities.

Information and Details of the Program

The Home Run Scholars After School Program is available to any child aged 6 to 12 (Grades 1-6) living within a TCHC building or community. Registration for the program begins from October to November. Parents/guardians are required to complete a comprehensive application form, read and sign the parent handbook and submit a nominal registration fee of \$15 per child. Due to our limited resources we will only accept cash or online payments. Each site has a maximum capacity based on the size of the space and the number of staff assigned to support the space. Registration will officially close when a site is filled and parents can apply to be on the wait-list.

Length of Program: November 12th, 2018 to May 31st, 2019 (25 weeks)

Days of the Week: Monday to Wednesday (3 days a week)

Time: 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: In 8 TCHC Buildings

Start Date: November 12th, 2018

Registration Fee: \$15 per child/ per school year

Program Schedule

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Participant sign in, Snack Time #1 and participate in one of 3 choice activity options.
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Opening Circle
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Homework and nutrition time (*Focused Learning Time*)
5:15 PM - 5:45 PM	Snack Time #2
5:45 PM - 6:45 PM	Get Out and Play!
6:45 PM - 7:00 PM	Wrap Up, Clean Up and Farewell

Please Note: The schedule is in alignment with the school schedule (i.e. Stat holidays, March Break, Christmas break, etc.)

Important Dates:

Below are a list of important dates to keep in mind as the program progresses. *Please note – Any field trips not already scheduled into the After School Program, a field trip form will be sent home at least one week in advance to be signed and returned to the Program Staff.

- Holiday Break (Dec. 24, 2018 – Jan. 4, 2019) – No Program
- Family Day (Feb. 18, 2019) – No Program
- March Break (Mar. 11, 2019 – Mar. 15, 2019) – No Program
- Easter Monday (Apr. 22, 2019) – No Program
- Victoria Day (May 20, 2019) – No Program
- **May 31st, 2019 – Last day of program**



Monthly Themes/Challenges

Each month the program will follow a different theme or challenge of the month to help inspire new skills and creative activities within the program. Some themes include: Talent Month, Olympics Month, Dragons Den Month, Holiday Spirit Month, etc.

Snacks/Meals

New this year is our nutrition portion of the program where participants get the opportunity to create healthy snacks/meals. Wholesome, nutritious snacks/meals (after school) are provided for all registered participants of the program. Scheduled snack times are included each day of the program where participants will learn how to prepare, clean, cook and make healthy snacks/meals each program day.

Special needs and allergies should be discussed with the Program Leaders on the first day of program. Please provide your child with an extra snack if you feel your child will get hungry in addition to what will be provided. All containers, cups and other items MUST be labeled with your child's full name.



Staffing Structure

Each Home Run Scholars site has a team that includes at minimum 3 staff:

- 1 Home Run Scholars Tutor
- 1 Home Run Scholars Senior Program Leader - Gym
- 1 Home Run Scholars Senior Program Leader - Nutrition

In order to attain a position, staff are required to have previous experience working with children, valid First Aid/CPR certification, and a Vulnerable Sector Check. Nutrition staff also require a Food Handlers Certification.

Staff Training

Before the program begins, all Home Run Scholars staff are trained for what equates to 5 days. The training is robust and dynamic and seeks to ensure that staff are equipped to facilitate best-in-class after school programming. A significant portion of this training is devoted to the following essential topics/skills:

- Facilitation skills – How to effectively facilitate high quality and structured programming
- Behaviour management – How to pro-actively manage behaviours while maintaining integrity
- Action-packed activities – How to ensure that programs are action-packed and that staff have the biggest possible toolkit to draw from
- Filling e-tanks – Strategies for enhancing the self-esteem of each individual participant
- Assessment – Activities to use to assess the quality of the program and continuously improve

Registering a Participant

The Home Run Scholars After School Program is available to any child in Grades 1-6 living within a TCHC building or community. Registration for the program begins now! Please visit our Online Registration at the link below to complete an application form and register your children today!

<http://jayscare.leagueapps.com/camps> - and Click on Home Run Scholars After School Program 2018-2019 to find your desired TCHC location

A nominal registration fee of \$15 per child/per school year will be asked upon completed application forms. If you are unable to register online, paper registration forms are available. Please contact your TCS Program Coordinator to find out where to get them. They will coordinate with you to pick it up at a designated time and place or hand it to the Home Run Scholars Program Staff Leaders in charge of the site. **Please ensure you receive a receipt upon acceptance of your registration form and payment.**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us here at (647) 456-9390 (Toshania) or email us at **Toshania.Solomon@torontohousing.ca**

We look forward to working with you in our after school program!

