

Bridging the Gaps



Bridging the Gaps at West Reading Elementary

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Community Preceptor: *Jamie Chmielewski, COTA/L, Director at Olivet Boys & Girls Club*

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Olivet's Boys & Girls Club:
Olivet's Boys & Girls Club allows young children from all backgrounds and upbringings to grow and develop while becoming caring and responsible members of the community

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Olivet Boys & Girls Club is a chartered members of Boys & Girls Club of America and serves to address issues in the youth through education support, after school programs, and mentoring. The Club serves around 3,000 children annually with 43% coming from single-parent households, 84% living at or below the national poverty line, and 93% qualifying for free or reduced lunch programs.

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

This specific summer program through the Boys and Girls Club allows students who require summer-school to also take part in a summer camp. As part of my work and responsibilities there, I help with some of the summer camp activities but also some of the enrichment activities. These activities vary week to week but include STEM enrichment activities, Girls Scouts, and field trips to Blue Mountain for fishing, canoeing, and archery.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- Talking with kids at their level and vocabulary
- "Sneaky Learning"
- Witnessing the realization of their potential



REFLECTION

This was one of my very first times working with young kids in this capacity. I loved my experience working with kids this summer. I really learned the importance of getting down to the child's level and talking in a manner that makes sense to them and computes in their brains. I've always wanted to be in a teaching role as part of my career so having the opportunity to be able to facilitate learning lessons like patience, confidence, persistence, and self-reliance has been incredibly fulfilling and motivating.