

Tri-Cities Family YMCA | Before & After School Enrichment @ GHAPS

FAQ's

1. Why is the GHAPS Open Door Program being transitioned to the Tri-Cities Family YMCA?

The YMCA and GHAPS have long been community partners serving the same families and children. Both the Y and GHAPS have long wanted to deepen their partnership to better serve the community. The Y's long and reputable history in the community as a provider of programs for youth made this an ideal opportunity to elevate the Open Door Program and ensure its longevity.

2. Will it continue to be known as the Open Door Program?

The doors will continue to be open and welcoming to all GHAPS families! The Y will refer to the program as the Before and After School Enrichment Program.

3. When does the Tri-Cities Family YMCA officially begin overseeing the program?

You and your children may have already started to see YMCA support staff working alongside the current GHAPS staff. This is helping us prepare for a smooth transition. The Y will begin to oversee full operations on January 4, 2027. Registration for the program will open on November 23, 2026. Any future registrations for Before and After School Enrichment in 2027 will need to be through the Y.

4. Will the current staff remain the same?

We are fortunate to have recruited many of the current Open Door staff. They are a huge asset to the program and we are so grateful for their continued dedication and support. Some new staff faces may be seen during the transition and into 2027.

5. Will the current hours remain the same?

Yes, the hours will remain the same at all locations for the remainder of the 2027 school year. Additionally, the program calendar will remain the same with care available on:

- Early Release Days
- Half Days and/or District Professional Development Days
- Winter and Spring Breaks (Duneside only)
- Snow Days (Duneside only)

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6. Will program fees change?

The Y is committed to keeping program fees reasonable and affordable for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. All programs will have a flat weekly fee with additional cost for half or full day care. There will be no new registration fees.

TYPE OF CARE	FEE
Before Care Only	$60/week
After Care Only	$70/week
Before and After Care	$130/week
Half Days	Additional $30/day
Full Days	Additional $50/day

Financial assistance is available to all eligible families. The application is quick and simple. Questions regarding financial assistance can be directed to Tracy Whitehead: tracy.whitehead@tcfymca.org

7. Do I need to re-enroll my child? If so, how do I do that?

Yes. Since the program will now be facilitated by the Y, you will need to register and enroll with the Y. Registration can be completed completely online. Registration will no longer be through ProCare. The Y utilizes a different registration tool called Daxko. To assist, the Y has created **Registration Instructions**.

The Y will also host Registration Support Sessions in December at all current Open Door locations to assist families as needed. You may also seek registration support by calling the YMCA at 616.842.7051.

The Before and After School Enrichment Program is a licensed child care program. Per State Licensing Rules and Regulations, new enrollment forms for your child will need to be collected by the YMCA. Once registered, you will be emailed enrollment materials. The forms are brief and similar to what you have previously provided to GHAPS. Licensing does not allow programs to share enrollment forms with other programs. Thank you for being flexible!

8. Will the Tri-Cities Family YMCA offer Financial Assistance?

Yes, the Y will provide financial assistance to all eligible families. Please contact Tracy Whitehead: tracy.whitehead@tcfymca.org for more information.

9. How do I schedule days/weeks of care for my child?

The Y will use a simple **Attendance Days/Times Form** to collect days of the week your child will attend as well as drop off (Before School) and pick up (After School) times.

10. Will there be changes and/or new program offerings?

Families can count on the same hours of operation and calendar, trusted staff, and locations. The Y will offer program enhancements through the SCALED Before and After School Curriculum. This curriculum provides physical and academic enrichment activities that are developmentally sound and appropriate for a wide range of ages and abilities.

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11. Will the program remain nature-based?

All program locations will continue to have outdoor time. Outdoor time will include both structured and independent choice activities. Additionally, the Before and After School Enrichment Curriculum will provide a variety of activities, including some nature-based instruction and activities.

12. Will meals and snacks be provided?

Yes. During after school care, children will be provided a daily healthy snack. Additionally, children in care after 4:30 pm will be offered a lite, healthy evening meal. All children will be offered a snack and/or meal (if in care). Snacks and meals will not be withheld, but children can decline if they so choose. Dietary restrictions and or allergies will be noted at enrollment to provide substitutions to children as needed.

13. Will transportation remain the same?

For students attending the Duneside location, GHAPS will continue to provide transportation to their home school in the morning and from their home school to Duneside in the afternoon. All other transportation needs will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

14. How does the Tri-Cities Family YMCA ensure that my child remains safe while in their care?

The Before and After School Enrichment Programs offered by the Y are fully licensed and regulated by the Child Care Licensing Bureau (CCLB), a division of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP). As such, the Y is required to follow all rules and regulations set forth by CCLB. Additionally, the Y requires and provides regular training for all Before and After School Enrichment staff in child development, curriculum and instruction, child abuse prevention and safety, behavior management, and positive interactions and guidance with youth.

15. Who do I contact with questions?

Questions regarding the Before and After School Enrichment Program can be directed to:

- Meredith Long, Director of Operations | meredith.long@tcfymca.org
- Kelly Haracourt, Marketing Coordinator | kelly.haracourt@tcfymca.org

16. What do I do now?

We understand that there will be additional questions beyond what was shared in this FAQ. The Y will host Information Sessions and Registration Support Sessions for families. Additional dates to note, include:

DATE	EVENT
November 23, 2026	Registration Opens | tcfyma.org
November 30, 2026	Duneside Family Info Session | 5:30 pm
December 1, 2026	Lake Hills Family Info Session | 5:30 pm
December 2, 2026	Robinson Family Info Session | Robinson | 5:30 pm
December 7, 2026	Registration Support | Duneside, Lake Hills, Robinson | 5:00-6:15 pm
December 8, 2026	Registration Support | Duneside, Lake Hills, Robinson | 5:00-6:15 pm
January 4, 2027	YMCA Before and After School Enrichment Program Begins | All Locations