The Comer Education Campus, which is comprised of the Gary Comer Youth Center, Gary Comer College Prep and Gary Comer Middle School, integrates excellent schools, dynamic enrichment and extended learning opportunities to prepare young people for college, careers and futures as well-rounded, global citizens. While the campus is located in Greater Grand Crossing, serving as an anchor for the entire community, we have also expanded our offerings on-line to better reach young people where/when/and how they need us.

Our work is focused on three areas: academic success, youth development (which includes youth enrichment, health & wellness and family & community engagement), and career exploration. Through this integrated approach, we help young people graduate from high school with a post-secondary plan and the skills and confidence to achieve that plan.

Mission Statement:
We prepare young people for college, careers and futures as well-rounded, global citizens.

Vision Statement:
Our vision is a world where every young person in every community has the resources and opportunities to reach their unlimited potential.

Core Values:
- Youth Power - We believe in the unlimited potential of young people and choose to invest in them as the key to a brighter future for our communities and our world.
- Innovation - We move quickly and continuously to innovate our approach in response to the needs of the young people we work with and the community we are part of.
- Wellbeing - We foster safe spaces that enhance the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of young people and their families, while also making our community a safer place to live.
- Community Commitment - We are deeply connected with young people, their parents and our community. We commit to allowing their voices to guide our work, and to doing whatever it takes to help them thrive.
- Equity and Inclusion - We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to live their full potential, and that our Campus and community are stronger when they are full of opportunities for people with diverse identities, backgrounds and perspectives. We prioritize action over intention and are working every day to make our Campus more equitable and inclusive.
- Joy - We believe every young person deserves to have joy in their life. We create opportunities to be a kid and have fun every day, recognizing that joy is the key that unlocks positive youth development and brighter futures.

We believe that high-quality opportunities for positive development should be available to young people in all communities. Therefore, we're strengthening Chicago’s South Side, while also serving as a model for other communities committed to impact through their investment in young people as well.

*************
For more information, please visit
www.comereducationcampus.org
MEMBERSHIP

2020-2021 GCYC Membership: $20
*Membership is valid September 1, 2020-May 31, 2021.
This membership allows access to all onsite, virtual, and family programming.

Memberships for GCYC can be purchased by visiting comereducationcampus.org and clicking on “Join Us.” GCYC’s online enrollment and registration system, Amilia, allows members and families to access a full catalogue of program information, instructor contact, and direct messaging important to members and community.

For additional questions or information on how to sign up for a GCYC Membership, please contact GCYC’s Membership Team: membership@gcychome.org or call (773) 368-4100.

WINTER/SPRING 2021 PROGRAMS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Welcome Desk & Membership: Ruby Jones membership@gcychome.org

Programs: Chylyla Wilson cwilson@gcychome.org

Academics: Will Irvin wirvin@gcychome.org

Community Engagement: Tyra Owens towens@gcychome.org

Counseling: Youth Counseling Team counseling@gcychome.org

Culinary: Remington Price rprice@gcychome.org

Events: Sara Nuismer snuismer@gcychome.org

Facilities: Dan Schuch dschuch@gcychome.org

Urban Agriculture: Marjorie Hess mhess@gcychome.org

Youth Employment: Fredricka Holloway fholloway@gcychome.org
ACADEMIC

Study Buddies
6th-8th Grade
Mondays-Thursdays: 2pm-4pm

Need help with homework? Study Buddies is a safe and supportive environment for students to succeed at remote learning this year. Academic support, including one-on-one tutoring, will be provided.

Contact us for one-time drop-in help or to schedule an appointment with a tutor for yourself or a small group.

Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/gcycstudybuddies

Day-of reservations must be submitted no later than 1:00

Excel
9th-12th Grade
Mondays-Thursdays: 2pm-5pm

Excel is a safe and supportive environment for students to succeed at remote learning this year where they can get help from tutors and complete nightly homework. You can message or video chat GCYC Academic Support Staff via Google Hangouts for help with quick questions. They will also be able to schedule an individual one-on-one or group study session with a tutor from the University of Chicago.

Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/gcycexcelsignup

Leaps and Bounds
9th Grade
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 3:30pm-5:30pm

Virtual Leaps and Bounds is a high school readiness program for ninth graders. We support the ninth grade student with a holistic approach: we teach high school readiness skills, provide small-group social-emotional learning and mentoring, and help freshmen look towards their future and build career readiness skills. We also provide one-on-one

Upward Bound
9th-12th Grade

Peer Leadership: Mondays: 4pm-5pm
Young Women’s Mentoring: Thursdays: 4pm-5pm
Male Mentoring: Thursdays: 4pm-5pm
Robotics: Tuesdays: 4pm-5pm

Virtual Upward Bound at Gary Comer Youth Center is an academic enrichment program designed for 9th - 12th graders that provides the supports necessary for all members to graduate from high school prepared for college and career. Our goal is to

ART

Visual Arts
6th-8th Grade
Wednesdays & Thursdays: 4pm-6pm

This course is an introduction to Visual Arts and craft "DIY" projects. Participants will explore a variety of wet and dry materials and create group and individual projects. Youth will develop or enhance drawing and painting skills as well as explore a variety of art materials. Participants will be challenged to incorporate ideas about their community into their art as well as self-expression to develop cultural awareness and self-awareness.

Dance
6th-8th Grade
Mondays-Thursdays: 4pm-6pm

Students will be introduced to various genres of dance and have the opportunity to learn techniques in the following genres: ballet, jazz, hip hop, contemporary, tumbling, and African. Youth will be engaged and learn the mental and physical benefits of dancing. Participants will have the opportunity to learn choreography and stage performance techniques.

CULINARY

Comer Cooking Club
6th-8th Grade
Thursdays: 4pm-6pm

Comer Cooking is an advanced culinary arts course for youth in grades 6-8. You will learn to become young chefs through learning professional culinary techniques and skills, including recipe development and budgeting.

Comer Cook Along Supper Club

Join the Comer Culinary Team to prepare dinner for you and your family! We will deliver the necessary ingredients to you each week to cook along with our talented staff of chef instructors to prepare a nutritious and balanced dinner for the entire family. Classes will highlight kitchen tips to make cooking at home easier, nutrition education focused on preventable disease and overall health, and of course having fun together as a family!

Thursdays: 4pm-6pm
Classes run in 4-week sessions

Session A begins 1/14
Session B begins 2/11
Session C begins 3/11
Session D begins 4/8
Session E begins 5/6

GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER
7200 SOUTH BEATRICE AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60649
773-358-4042
WWW.COMERCENTRAL.COM
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Cultural Connections
9th-12th grade
Mondays & Wednesdays: 5pm-6:30pm

Cultural Connections provides high school youth with social and cultural exposure through field trips and experiences. The program awakens youth to the possibilities of their potential by erasing the borders of the city and in their minds.

Destiny Leaders Club
6th-8th grade
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4p-5:30p

Destiny Leaders Club program works to instill the idea that pre-teens and middle school youth can, given the opportunity, display the characteristics that lead to academic and life-long success, healthy relationship management and a genuine appreciation of cultures and life experiences different from their own.

Legacy
9th-12th grade
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm-7:30pm

Legacy is a program for high school youth who display the characteristics of leadership, civic & community engagement and seek to lend their voice and act to impact change in the community and serve as youth leaders and youth voice for the Comer campus.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Mixed Sports & Fitness
6th-8th grade
Onsite: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 4pm-6pm
Virtual: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4pm-6pm

Mixed Sports provides youth with a fun and insightful experience while reeducating them on health and wellness through organized physical play and sports. Fitness class is offered 3 times a week for young people to become stronger, build muscle, and help with overall fitness.

Teen Center
9th-12th grade
Monday - Friday 3:30pm-7pm

Teen Center is a safe place for teens to come after school with multiple activities offered in the space, including pool challenge weekly, ping pong tournament weekly, football skills test, NBA2K challenge, and Michael Jackson dance-off.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Teen Fridays/Movie Club
9th-12th grade
Fridays: 5pm-7pm

Movie Club is a program geared at providing teens with a safe environment to view and explore films where they can engage in positive peer interactions. Teen Fridays are events that youth get to explore fun and engaging activities to develop and demonstrate social skills, teamwork, responsibility, communication, and more.

ROCKSTARS
9th-12th Grade/Young Ladies
Wednesdays: 5pm-6:30pm *starts January 2021

ROCKSTARS is a sisterhood of strong high school young women and mentors making a difference in today’s society while learning the standards of finer womanhood.

WINTER/SPRING 2021 PROGRAMS
TECHNOLOGY

Robotics and Engineering Club (M,W,F)  
6th-8th Grade  
Virtual: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 4pm-6pm  

Code, build, and design using Sphero robots. From learning how robots and computers work to designing and printing our own custom designs on 3D printers, this program is a great start for future engineers, coders, and makers.

Robotics & Engineering Club (T,TH)  
6th-8th Grade  
Onsite: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4pm-6pm  

Design, build, and code a robot to compete in the FIRST LEGO League challenge. Use your team’s talents to help tackle real world problems! This class requires a strong commitment to the program as this is a team-based program culminating in competing in a tournament with teams from other groups and schools.

*Prerequisites: Recommended previous exposure or participation in a robotics or coding program

Digital Design  
6th-8th grade  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 4pm-6pm  

Digital Design teaches youth about digital media production and concepts from design and art using tools like Adobe Photoshop.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

ASM- Intern  
10th-12th grade  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5pm-7pm  

Interns are exposed to the occupation of Youth Development and Youth Agency Administration. Teens provide direct services to GCYC Camp children and support their activities. Interns are also exposed to administrative roles and participate in career readiness development life skills training opportunities.

ASM- SYGS  
10th-12th grade  
Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 4:30pm-6:30pm  

Learn about a career in Audio/Sound Engineering or Graphic Design! Receive instruction on the tools and techniques used by Sound Engineers and graphic designers to capture and manipulate sound or graphics. Explore what you learn during projects that require recording, editing, mixing, producing audio files or creating, manipulating design.

ASM- The Art Apprenticeship  
10th-12th grade  
Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays: 4:30pm-6:30pm  

Learn to pre-visualize, conceptualize, plan, develop, and create art collaboratively utilizing technology such as Adobe Photoshop, along with site visits, and thumbnail sketching. Initial activities focus on understanding the basic principles of art and using that as a foundation for conceptual development and creation of 2D and 3D art. Te

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB

Entrepreneurship Club  
10th-12th grade  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: Onsite: 5pm-7pm  

Earn a stipend for developing your own business idea into a solid business plan and pitch. Participants have the opportunity to present their idea and compete for prizes.

FREE SPIRIT MEDIA

Free Spirit Media  
10th-12th grade  
Apprentices: Mondays & Wednesdays 4pm-5:30pm  
Advance Apprentices: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4pm-5:30pm  

Free Spirit Media News South focuses on media arts, news literacy, journalistic ethics, and media production as a form of civic engagement. Apprentices learn the interviewing, producing, directing, and other technical skills needed for journalism and video production.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Green Teens Apprentice and Interns  
9th-12th Grade  
Apprentices: Mondays-Thursdays: 4pm-6pm  
Interns: Wednesdays-Fridays: 4pm-6pm  
Les Chef Verts: Tuesdays-Thursdays: 4pm-6pm  
(Wednesdays-onsite)

Looking to earn a stipend after school, while learning how to garden, cook, and more? Green Teens is an employment readiness program for high school teens. Green Teens participate in hands-on, indoor, and outdoor activities focusing on green careers, urban agriculture, and community action.

Comer Crops Internship  
Ages 18-24  
Monday - Friday: 9am-3pm  

The Comer Crops internship provides young adults (18-24) with hands-on work experience and training in urban agriculture and related fields to prepare them for success after high school.
Youth Advisory Board

The Gary Comer Youth Center Youth Advisory Board works with youth who are interested in enhancing their leadership skills.

This is a youth-led group open to all Chicago youth.

YAB requires young adults to lead their peers in community-focused projects and to collect information that will enhance the experience of GCYC members and the broader community. We build collective power through visionary facilitation of intergenerational, community-wide events.

PARENT & COMMUNITY Advisory Council

Join us as we continue to improve programming for our youth, parents, and community!

- November 17
- December 15
- January 19
- February 16
- March 16

6:30 - 7:30 PM
Every 3rd Tuesday

Virtual Meeting Link: HTTPS://BIT.LY/3PAOMCK
Passcode: 343122

All youth and adult members are welcome to join PCAC!
All parents of youth members are invited to join PCAC!
All of our friends living in the neighborhood are invited to join PCAC!

WINTER/SPRING 2021
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SERVICES