



Ardmore Baptist Hosting Remote Learning Center

September 10, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ardmore Baptist Church,

In 2019, many of you graciously participated in a “Growing Young Survey.” One of the key things we learned was where our strengths lie as a congregation. One of the strengths reported by the survey results, and shared through stories in small groups over and over again, was how Ardmore Baptist Church is an incredibly welcoming congregation and creates a sense of belonging for people. Earlier, in the spring, as school moved unexpectedly to remote learning, there were an estimated 6,000 students in Forsyth county who never logged on to learn the lessons and complete the assignments. As the summer progressed, it became clear that students needed to engage in remote learning for the fall. We began to wonder what we could do to help. Through the nudging of the Holy Spirit, we discovered we could use one of our greatest strengths to meet one of the school system’s biggest needs.

We have been invited to join an exciting new partnership with Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS) to host a Remote Learning Center for high school age students. With the blessing of our Deacons and Pastoral Staff, we will be opening a site specifically for students who are assigned to us by the school system. These will be students who need a safe, reliable, connected, and encouraging space to carry out their remote instruction. The site will be housed on both sides of the Fellowship Hall Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will begin on Monday, September 21. Students and volunteers will adhere to all safety and cleaning guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), including physical distancing and wearing masks.

As this need became more and more apparent in our community, we identified two large pieces of the puzzle that needed to fall into place before we could agree to this type of commitment. We needed community support as well as an individual to serve as a “Site Supervisor.” This person’s responsibilities would include managing volunteers and serving as a point of contact between the church and school system. In regard to community support, as of this week, there are four other Ardmore area congregations who have pledged their support of volunteers and resources to our remote learning site: Ardmore Methodist, Highland Presbyterian, Knollwood Baptist, and St. Timothy’s Episcopalian. We are all excited to partner together to love our neighbors! In regard to a “Site Supervisor,” the

gifts, strengths, and experience of Becky Bryant stood out to complement this initiative. Becky was a career-teacher in the WSFCS system and has agreed to serve as the Site Coordinator during this time. We are excited and blessed to have Becky in this role!

What a wonderful way to use the strengths with which God has equipped our congregation in order to meet a need in our community! Will you consider joining in this effort to help students feel welcome and know they belong? Our most prominent need is for volunteers to help support and encourage students assigned to our facility by the school system. Sign-up slots are for 2.5 hours throughout each day. Volunteer duties include:

- General monitoring of students
- Assisting students with technology issues, work, and meals
- Wiping down surfaces with cleaning supplies occasionally

We also need store-bought, individually wrapped snacks and bottled water to provide students on “brain breaks” from screens. Once we have the facility up and running, an Amazon wish list will be created for needed supplies to help the facility run smoothly.

Most importantly, we need your prayers for the students, their families, and our volunteers as we venture down this path. If you have questions, please contact Becky Bryant, our Site Supervisor, at beckybryant88@gmail.com and/or Amy Gallaher, Minister of Missional Engagement, at agallaher@ardmorebaptist.org. Information is also available on our website: <https://www.ardmorebaptist.org/remote-learning-center/>

Volunteer Guide:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15NB1ym3J7Mol5m9QfvBCuZuMtfYv82XL9H95cB0IZnA/edit?usp=sharing>

Volunteer Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b44adaa2aa1fe3-ardmore>

Student Expectations:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yfQSunZs_-7ayAJu3cgv00e6sDXIBE36_iCr6wRVeUq/edit?usp=sharing

Blessings,

Amy Gallaher
Minister of Missional Engagement
Ardmore Baptist Church