



Welcome Home!

The countdown to summer freedom has begun! Are you ready for all the joy that summer brings? I know I am! Playing kickball with friends, swimming in the neighborhood pool until little legs can kick no longer, and of course, having the time of your life at Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service's "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp! This is what kids *long* for during the tedious months of school, and it all begins in 604,800 seconds...10,080 minutes...168 hours... 7 days...*one week*.

There has been quite a buzz here at the MDTS office. Between two of our staff graduating from College (Congratulations **Tisa Brant** and **Colleen**

Hooker!), one graduating from High School (Congratulations **Allison Bucca**), countless tutors finishing up finals, and the start up of Module III, the office has been quite the busy place! As we speak, MDTS managers are planning and preparing for the FREE summer extravaganza, "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp, that will be held at various schools throughout the county. Your little ones will NOT want to miss this high-paced, action-packed program focusing on Math and Reading fundamentals. Look for the article on page 2 for further details. We can't wait to see all of you this summer!

—*Colleen Hooker*



"Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is a progress.

Working together is success."

— **Henry Ford**

New Curriculum

This module Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service decided to implement a brand new curriculum into our program. *SourceBook* is a comprehensive reading and writing curriculum that engages the student. From all that feedback we

have received from the tutors and students, *SourceBook* seems to be a great way to teach the children their reading and writing fundamentals tailored to their specific needs. When the children have completed

their hours, they are free to take their personal book home for further enrichment. This is a great way to help your child keep up their reading and writing through the summer months.

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Special points of interest:

- *Prepare yourself for the summer to remember!*
- *Like Baseball? MDTS sure does!*
- *How does SES benefit YOU?*
- *A+ Kids!*
- *Hear from Mrs. Dowd!*
- *What are the kids saying about MDTS?*

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Fun in the Sun

Food, craazy Fridays, cool teachers and prizes? What could this be? Only Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service's "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp! On June 19th Mrs. Dowd's will kick off their exciting Summer program, "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp. Complete with curriculum tailored specifically for your child's needs, MDTS promises to improve your child's understanding of math and reading concepts before they begin the upcoming school year. Don't let all their hard work during the school year retreat to the back of their head; let's keep them learning! Sound too good to be true? Well, did we mention that it is *completely free*?

"Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp will take place three hours a day for three weeks during the months of June and July.

Summer programs will be held at the following schools:

- Bladensburg Elementary
- Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary
- Matthew Henson Elementary
- Kenmoor Elementary
- Riverdale Elementary
- Robert R. Gray Elementary
- Buck Lodge Middle School



If you haven't gotten a chance to sign up your child or have questions regarding the summer program, please do not hesitate to call the office! Remember that we are here to help your students succeed!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

It's the classic American game, born and bred on our home turf: Baseball! Mrs. Dowd has a special treat for the families of all those students who complete this summer's "Fun in the Sun" Learning camp! The Bowie Baysox are the local Class AA Eastern League (minor league) baseball team that feeds into the Baltimore Orioles.

Come, leave your wallets at home and join us on **Tuesday, August 1st** for a great time as we watch the Bowie Bay-

"Long before Barry Bonds, Mark McGuire, Sammy Sosa, and Roger Maris, there was the historic Babe Ruth sixty home-run season — one that lived for half a century"

sox crush the Connecticut Defenders at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie, Md. Transportation will be provided by Mrs.

Dowd's as well as a light dinner and 7th-inning snack. Be sure to look for trip details to unfold as the summer progresses. This is our way of thanking you — the greatest families in the world!

****Remember that this great opportunity is for the families of students who have completed the "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp.**

Our Hero: Kathy McMullen

Walk into Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service after-school program at Bladensburg Elementary School and you would believe that MDTS has been there since the inception of the school! Thanks to the hard-work and dedication of Manager Kathy McMullen, BES has become our biggest and busiest after-school program. Mrs. McMullen has worked tirelessly organizing curriculum, monitoring instruction and making sure

your kids get 100% from our teachers! I think we can all agree that Kathy is to be thanked for all she has contributed to Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service. All her hard-work has paid off and she will be enjoying the summer from a



Kathy McMullen with Bladensburg ES students, Summer 2005

different perspective: teaching in the "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp. Next time you see her, be sure to give her a hug and thank her for all she has done!

SES Benefits

The goal of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is that by the 2013-2014 school year 100% of students would have progressed in academics. This act serves the schools by following the academic progress of students and supplying Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for schools that have not met minimum performance standards determined by the Department of Education, for three consecutive years. SES aids the students by providing them with opportunities to improve their academic knowledge after the normal classroom hours. SES and NCLB seek to serve student's minds through methods that have been proven to be suc-

cessful. Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service, an approved SES provider, is on the forefront of this endeavor seeking to serve your children through enrichment in math and reading. One way to benefit from SES is to enroll your child in the "Fun in the Sun" learning camp. The greatest benefit of this summer's "Fun in the Sun" learning camp is that after the students spend time improving their math and reading skills they will be more adequately prepared to be successful as they enter the 2006-2007 school year.

— Allison Bucca



Super Students!

Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service Family Division is continuing to serve parents who want their children to excel on their grade level. Many classrooms are overcrowded and the environment doesn't lend itself to meeting the needs of all the children, unfortunately causing many children to fall behind. MDTS teachers are committed to serving the children where they are and to help them improve academically. Parents have seen the MDTS Family Division



program help their children tremendously. They have seen their children's report cards improve 2 to 3 letter

grades. It really blesses the hearts of MDTS students, parents, and teachers to know that the children are improving and excelling in former areas of academic struggle. The MDTS Family Division one-on-one tutoring...works! If you have a child who is struggling to understand his or her homework, and is lacking motivation to work, give Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service a call. We would love to help!

Director's Corner

Dear faithful families,

Have you noticed how quickly the weather changed in and around the Washington D.C. area? One week we were wearing sweaters, chasing our umbrellas, and looking at the trees slowly show their new green jackets, and then, voila! Warm weather has arrived! Now we are wearing cotton clothes (less sticky than polyester) and finding which stores have the best air conditioning! Still, the seasons of life go on.

This summer, many of you will be joining us for the first time in tutoring. We will be serving students from June 19th to July 13th at four locations, from Bladensburg to Capitol Heights. And the best part is the *Bowie Baysox Baseball Game* you are all invited to at the end of



Mrs. Dowd with her children:
Christopher, 21 and Colleen, 23

the session! It's free! We will have a light dinner, snacks and a great time together! So make sure your children finish their summer session! We look forward to giving you more information at the end of June! Have a wonderful summer!

Warm Regards,
Eileen Dowd

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We're on the web!
www.christianteacher.net

Until every child in PG County is served...



What do the Kids think about Mrs. Dowd's?

Every time we receive a letter back from one of the kids we have worked with we all get excited. It's reassuring to hear that the kids enjoy learning with Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service! Here are some recent letters we have received from children at our various sites:

Dear Mrs. Dowd,

I am very happy to be in the teaching service. I have learned a lot, like how to spell onomatopoeia. Of course, all of the teachers are great at working with me. I love your service, and thanks for helping me.

P.S. Have a great summer

Another student wrote:

I like Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Services because we get to learn. People let us play games. We do math and reading. When people come in they smile at us.

*Dear Mrs. Dowd,
You are the best people I have ever known. The teachers here are very, very nice. They help me with my work and they are funny! If you ever had a teacher it should be them.*

*Mrs. Dowd,
I like math like a toy bear. I like to read with my tutor.*

*Dear Mrs. Dowd,
I like reading with my tutor.*

*Dear Mrs. Dowd,
Thank you for helping me with everything you did in reading and math. Now I'm getting good grades in math and reading all thanks to you. At first I was not doing well in my grades and when I joined Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service it helped me a lot. Even though I completed my hours I still want to come.*



Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service Office Staff, March 2006

Kids truly speak from their heart! It has been a joy to work with your children. Each one has brought smiles to our faces and makes our jobs worth all the hard work.