

DJJ NEWS



SCHOOL'S OUT BUT SUMMER INTERVENTION IS IN!

School may be out for summer break, but a group at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center will be spending the next two weeks on a worthwhile cause – bettering themselves.

Sixteen randomly selected youth will participate in a pilot summer intervention program that kicks off on June 19. The intense 11-day program will run daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will include leadership development, skill building and art, recreational and process group therapy.

The summer intervention program is a partnership with DJJ's Division of Education, Residential Services section, Behavioral Service Unit, Bureau of Investigative Operations, and Reentry, Education and Intervention Division workforce development initiative. Statewide Violence Intervention Specialist Dr. Deyonta Johnson, who is spearheading the effort, said participation and engagement will be required to remain in the program, but the opportunity for self-improvement appealed to the youth, who interviewed for and agreed to be in the pilot group.

"This program is about making them the best they can be," Johnson said.

If successful, the program will be expanded to take place other times of the year and be offered to additional youth.