



Board Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Title: Community Education 2023 Summer Program Presentation

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Dr. Anne Marie Leland, Community Education and Strategic Partnerships (CESP) Director; Kenda Zellner-Williams, Enrichment Supervisor; Becky Lux, Kids Club Supervisor; Maura Caldwell, parent; Lindsay Koerner, ELC Supervisor; Emma Kenney, Edina High School student; and Hannah Christianson, Youth Development Supervisor

Description: The Community Education and Strategic Partnerships Departments' purpose is to support Edina Public Schools' vision and mission by focusing on healthy youth development and meaningful family and community engagement. Our purpose was demonstrated this summer by reaching 54% of Edina Public School students through our Kids Club and Enrichment programs, along with almost 200 early learners. Overall, 5,630 young people and adults were served by our department.

The following chart describes our 2023 summer programming by program area, summary, age, and location.

Program	Description	Ages	Location
Early Childhood Family Education	Caregivers and children learn and grow together with licensed parent educators.	Birth - incoming K	Early Learning Center
Preschool Enrichment	70+ play-based, developmentally appropriate classes taught by Early Learning Center staff and other qualified teachers.	Ages 2 - 5	Early Learning Center
Kids Club	School age care offers a balance between structured and choice activities. Open 7:00am-6:00pm, M-F.	Incoming grades K - 6	Concord (grades K - 3) Highlands (grades 4 - 6)

Youth Enrichment Camps and Classes	564 camps and classes nurture a love of learning, support academics and grow skills in technology, the arts, sports, and more. Most camps run 9:00am-12:00pm or 1:00-4:00pm, M-TH.	Incoming grades K - 12	South View, Edina High School, Edina Community Center, more
excitED! (Targeted Services)	Students able to be safe, independent and successful build academic, organizational and social/emotional skills to draw nearer to grade-level academic expectations. 9:00 am-12:00 pm, M-TH.	Incoming grades 1 - 6	Creek Valley
Environmental Justice Camp	Students spend four nights engaged in immersive, nature-based learning. Eligibility based on FRP.	Incoming grades 7-10	Baker Outdoor Learning Center
Genesys Works Internships	Summer skills training program leading to paid, year-long internships in Information Technology fields.	Incoming grade 12	EHS and multiple work sites
Adult Enrichment	A full slate of offerings from art, fitness, yoga, and lifelong learning	Adults, all ages	Edina Community Center

What made summer 2023 exceptional for our community? The following information represents some of our new and innovative programs, along with our most popular offerings:

- Environmental Justice Camp:** Twenty-seven students spent four nights at Baker Outdoor Learning Center, free of charge to families. Students, most of whom had not spent a night away from home and with limited experience in nature, participated in activities including survival challenges, yoga, canoeing, rock climbing, geocaching, campfires, reflection, digital photography, and more. The group visited the U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve to learn more about their bison project, and gained exposure to environmental justice advocacy, as well as internships and career paths in outdoor education.
- Early Learning Center (ELC):** For the first time this summer, the ELC was able to offer programming in our own building and classrooms. Being able to plan and deliver programming in a familiar space and well-suited for young learners, encouraged more of our own teachers to offer camps to the community and for community members to choose the ELC as part of their child's summer experience. Program opportunities were designed to fit a variety of family needs and interests, such as full- and half-day camps

and parent/child activities. A wide selection of choices were available to children and families, ranging from music and athletics to art and cooking, with themes including nature, leadership, exploring Minnesota, and STEAM. Instructors leading these activities increased from five to 17 and camps offered increased from 29 to 93 (PreK Enrichment and ECFE) from 2022 to 2023.

- **Kids Club:** Focused on providing all age groups with a weekly visit to a park or playground, a service learning project, a field trip, and a visit to a pool or beach. This allowed all students to experience more places in the Twin Cities area. Swimming lessons were added this year and were exclusive to our Kids Club families the first two weeks of summer. Overwhelming interest made this a huge success that has prompted the discussion to expand for more Kids Club families to participate next summer.
 - **Onsite Field Trips:** Raptor Center, Fun Jumps (Bounce house), The Frozen Loon (Kids Club family owned), Kona Ice, Snake Discovery, and Sustainable Safari.
 - **Off-site Field Trips:** Edina Skyzone, Cascade Bay, Fort Snelling, Pump It Up, Minnehaha Falls, Rosland park, Elm Creek Park Reserve, Stages Theater, Minnetonka Regional Park, St. Louis Park Aquatic Center, Hyland Park Reserve, Skateville, Pamela Park, Bloomington Aquatic Center, Allianz Stadium Tour, Fun Lab, Lake Minnetonka Beach, Park Tavern, Eagan Central Park, The Works, Baker Park, Miller Park, Mississippi Paddleboat Cruise, Schaper Park, French Park, Apple Valley Aquatic Center, SandVentures, MN Zoo, Cascade Bay, Grand Slam, Fort Snelling, Children's Theater, Nickelodeon Universe, and Valley Fair.
- **excitED! (Targeted Services):** In addition to its traditional focus on reading and math, the program evolved to include more social and emotional and project-based learning. Purpose learning based on the World Leadership School's model for engaging young people was incorporated into the overall excitED! framework. Session one project-based learning focused on a food truck theme and culminated in a visit from Kona Shaved Ice Food Truck. Session two's focus was on animals and animal shelters, and included several visits from a therapy dog reading team, as well as a visit from Bunny Besties, a rabbit rescue group with a passion for literacy (and bunny agility!).
- **Youth Enrichment:** It was another record-breaking year for youth enrichment programming, with 564 camps offered. A shift in staffing model allowed us to continue to improve inclusive programming: we served 450 students with IEPs/special needs in general summer camps, in addition to 89 students with IEPs in Unified programming (increased from serving 265 students with IEPs in 2019). Overall parent satisfaction was high: 60% of families responding to our survey rated their experience in our summer camp a 10 of 10, with 472 responses recorded. An additional 10% rated their experience a 9 of 10. For the first time, we applied to host one AmeriCorps Summer Impact Fellow through Ampact; based on the strength of our program, we were assigned a total of four Fellows (one was later assigned to Early Learning Center).
- **Adult Enrichment:** Adults were engaged this summer through Community Woodshop, creative writing, mahjongg lessons to our adult fitness and wellness program ranging from ballet and water exercise to pilates, yoga, strength, and Tai Chi. Great Decisions, a current events lecture and discussion series (a partnership between Community Ed, Hennepin County library and Global Minnesota), continued throughout the summer.
- **Genesys Internships:** Thirteen EPS students (all rising seniors who have taken Computer Science courses) were accepted into the Genesys Works Summer Internship program. They completed an eight week summer Skills Training program focused on key areas such as business etiquette, conflict resolution and communication skills, as well as Microsoft Excel. At the end of summer, these students were placed in paid, year-long internships at Optum, Thrivent Financial, Medtronic, Best Buy, Target Corporation, M.A. Mortenson Co. and CWT US, LLC. The students will receive continued support and mentorship throughout the school year from the Work Based Learning class at the high school, co-taught by CESP staff. Genesys Works is a nonprofit actively expanding

career pathways for youth with big career aspirations but little access to the networks needed to help them achieve their dreams.

In order for the Edina Public Schools Community Education and Strategic Partnerships Department to offer robust and extraordinary programming, it took over 440 employees and vendors to plan and deliver our out of school time summer opportunities. The following table provides a description by program on the number of overall registrations, number of unique participants, number of vendors/instructors, and number of staff.

Program	Number of opportunities (registrations)	Number of unique participants	Number of vendors/instructors	Number of staff
Early Childhood Family Education	71	45 families (caregiver + child)	2	4 ELC staff
Preschool Enrichment	734	298	15	4 ELC staff 1 Ampact AmeriCorps Summer Impact Fellow
Kids Club	n/a	892	6 onsite field trips vendors 34 off site field trip vendors	176
Youth Enrichment Camps and Classes	7392	3782	87	21 Summer Staff 3 Ampact AmeriCorps Summer Impact Fellows
excitED! (Targeted Services)	n/a	291	n/a	33
Environmental Justice Camp	27	27	5	10
Genesys Works Internships	13	13	7 businesses	1
Adult Enrichment	401	282	17	1

A special thanks needs to be noted to our volunteers, community partners, EPS partners, and CESP planning team:

Volunteer Information

- Number of volunteers = 65
- Number of volunteer hours = 2,102.75
- Middle and high school Unified Program volunteers
- Majority of volunteers were EHS students

Community Partners

- Edina Give and Go
- Bunny Besties
- Ampact | AmeriCorps
- R.E.A.D. Dogs MN
- Edina Resource Center
- Baker Park Environmental Education Center
- U of M Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve
- Ana Munro, North Hennepin Community College
- Radar Staffing
- World Leadership School
- Kona Ice Truck
- Intermediate District 287
- Minnesota Department of Education Alternative Learning

Edina Public School Partners

- Transportation
- Buildings and Grounds
- Student Support Services
- Gretchen Meier, EPS School Nurse
- District Media and Technology Services
- Teaching and Learning
- Targeted Services
- Human Resources
- Finance and Operations
- Mark DeYoung, Assistant Principal and Summer Targeted Services Coordinator
- Daniel Brundage, Teacher and Summer Targeted Services Supervisor
- Deb Pekarek, Teacher and Purpose Summit Graduate

Community Education and Strategic Partnerships Planning Team

- Dr. Cheryl Gunness, Community Involvement Coordinator
- Rachel Hicks, Youth Programs Coordinator
- Julie Gabrielson, Facilities and Operations Coordinator
- Leah Byrd, Early Learning Coordinator
- Annie Schilling, Enrichment Manager
- Jane Tierney, Kids Club Manager
- Carrie Proctor, Kids Club Manager
- Tim Faklis, Inclusion Manager
- Matt Lux, Kids Club Supervisor
- Paul Miller, Kids Club Supervisor
- Tara Freiberg, Kids Club Supervisor
- Rebecca Lux, Kids Club Supervisor
- Matthew Lux, Kids Club Supervisor
- Lucas Bates, Kids Club Supervisor
- Abigail Wilfahrt, Kids Club Supervisor
- Derrick Lidstone, Kids Club Supervisor
- Jade Overton, Kids Club Supervisor
- Trent Ostman, Kids Club Supervisor
- Siri Block, Kids Club Supervisor
- Brian Manthe, Kids Club Supervisor
- Serenity Sebesta, Kids Club Supervisor
- Libby Tikalsky, Kids Club Supervisor
- Mary Finnamore, Department Specialist
- Kim Nooleen, Department Specialist

- Heather Larson, Department Specialist
- Tom Gatyas, Facility Scheduler
- Tyler Morris-Rees, Auditorium & Events Manager
- Kristin Biwan, Marketing & Communications Specialist
- Hannah Christianson, Youth Development & Volunteers Supervisor
- Melody Suite, Youth Development & Volunteers Supervisor
- Krista Phillips, Edina Resource Manager
- Brandon Sieck, Enrichment Supervisor
- Laura Phongsavath, Enrichment Supervisor
- Kenda Zellner-Smith, Enrichment Supervisor
- Linday Koerner, ELC Supervisor
- Affey Sigat, ELC Supervisor
- Jodi Holmquist, Department Specialist

Recommendation: N/A

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Please review the information and come prepared with your questions.

Attachments: 2023 Summer Community Education [Video](#)