



June 2025

Brad Evenson

Community Education

- Due to the construction taking place in the High School Building, we have moved a vast majority of the classes to the LPGE Elementary. This has been working very well; the instructors are doing a great job of sharing space and being very flexible with where classes can be offered. There are still a few classes being held outside at the high school, such as tennis, softball, and track and field. Soccer will be at the River of Life of Church at the field adjacent to the church. A huge thank you to the custodial staff at the LPGE Elementary for helping us with all of the logistics of this very busy summer for them.
- I would like to highlight the power of collaboration. Sometimes when two programs come together to help each other, it can be transformational for both groups. About three years ago, we were trying to figure out if LPGE Kids should remain open due to very small numbers. Through planning and some restructuring, we decided to keep the program up and running. One of the changes we made was integrating our Work-Based Learning students into the program. The thought was that LPGE Kids would receive extra help for free, and our WBL students would gain some valuable work experience. This decision has been highly successful and has surpassed our expectations. Our WBL kids have become an integral part of our staff, and several of our kids have gone on from this experience to go into related jobs. This summer, we currently have 35 kids signed up for LPGE Kids, and the program is back to its pre-COVID levels.
- The summer programming at LPGE Community Education has been successful. Many of our offerings, from sports clinics to art workshops, reached full capacity. A big thank you to our wonderful summer instructors! Their passion and dedication shine through in every class, making learning enjoyable and engaging for everyone, regardless of age. They truly set a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and we're so grateful for their contributions to our community!

21st Century

- The LPGE Thunder Summer Academy is just around the corner, and we're so excited about the amazing response from our community—165 students enrolled from last year's grades 1-7. The Academy will run on June 23–26, July 14–17, and July 28–31. We're thrilled to have enough students to support at least two instructors at each grade level. That means smaller class sizes and more one-on-one support, setting our students up for a fun and successful summer of learning! A huge thank you to all of our staff for stepping up to make this happen for our kids. We've got some great experiences planned, including a visit from the Science Crew on June 26, a trip to the Andria Theatre on June 27, and a fun day at Como Park Zoo on July 31. It's going to be a fantastic summer!
- Through the support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant, we were able to offer high-impact, career-focused programming during the summer that provided students with equitable access to educational opportunities that are typically cost-prohibitive. A key highlight was the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course, delivered in partnership with Alexandria Technical and Community College. This summer, five high school students participated in the CNA certification course at no cost. This opportunity not only allowed students to earn a valuable professional credential but also introduced them to career pathways in the healthcare field.



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- I'd like to highlight a class currently taking place in early June. Our Brainer class, a standout program supported through Community Education and the 21st CCLC grant. This enrichment opportunity is designed to engage students in a variety of hands-on, thought-provoking activities. Instructor Carissa Bitz does a fantastic job creating a learning environment that is both challenging and enjoyable. Students thrive in this setting, gaining new perspectives as they develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- The impact of this program extends beyond the classroom, as many past participants have secured employment as CNAs and pursued postsecondary degrees in medical and health-related disciplines. In addition, the 21st CCLC program supported student participation in Scrubs Camp, also hosted by Alexandria Technical and Community College. Scrubs Camp provided students with hands-on learning experiences and insight into a variety of careers within the healthcare sector, further aligning with our goal of preparing students for college and career success.

Federal Programs

- Strategic work on the Federal Programs grant process continues to ensure that we are effectively utilizing these important resources to support students, staff, and overall school improvement. Each year, we conduct comprehensive needs assessments, gather input from stakeholders, and carefully plan programming to align federal funding, particularly through Title I, II, and III, with our district goals and student achievement priorities. These efforts help us provide targeted academic interventions, meaningful professional development opportunities for teachers, and initiatives that support student engagement, wellness, and success. Our commitment to compliance and transparency remains strong, and we appreciate the continued support of the school board as we work to ensure that these federal resources make a lasting and measurable impact in our schools. The first submission of the grant in the Minnesota Education Grant System (MEGS) is due on June 30, 2025.