

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

DATE: JULY 18, 2016
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: KATHY PALM, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & ADMIN. SERVICES
SUBJECT: 2016 SUMMER PROGRAMS

COMMENTS:

The **21st Century Summer Program for grades 1-8** is scheduled from June 13 to July 21, four days a week, for six weeks. Targeted Services alternative funding provides the morning academic staff and resources and afternoon STEM activities. The 21st Century grant provides in-town transportation, nurse, afternoon activity leaders, snacks, and field trips. District Food Service provides free breakfast and lunch.

We have 243 students enrolled with 50 staff and six BSU interns. The teachers and paraprofessionals work with the students on math and reading in the morning. We provide a variety of materials and add to the resources every year, so students see unique materials, different from what they see during the school year. This year we added a new math program called Moving with Math that includes manipulatives for students to learn math by doing. At the end of the summer program we provide students with a book to take home and keep.

In the afternoon, the activity leaders take students to the pool, gym, art activities, academic enrichment, and outside games. Students receive swimming lessons from licensed instructors. Zach McDermott offers a Lego Bricklab program each afternoon with students doing activities such as operating their Lego robots from their iPads. The Girl Scouts offer a program called "Food Fiesta". Leo Alberti provides an Art Club for all students, which is a big hit.

New this year the program is located at the Bemidji High School English and art areas instead of the Bemidji Middle School, and that is working very well. The high school staff have been very welcoming, and everyone loves the additional space.

The **21st Century Program for grades 9-12** is also located at the high school the same dates, and 62 students are enrolled. The goal of the program is to assist students in core subjects and provide them with 21st century skills. Five licensed teachers and two paraprofessionals work with the students from 9:00 to noon Monday through Thursday from June 14 to July 21.

The summer program provides the opportunity for students to recover high school required credit in the four core subjects in a supportive and structured environment. Students are fortunate to have both one on one and small group attention. Students who are attending and working hard have a high success rate. Students with good attendance, academic progress, and respectful behavior earn incentives such as going out to eat at the Super Buffet for lunch. The Girl Scouts,

4H and Headwaters Science Center also provide programming as required by the grant, as community partners.

SummerKids is a child care program provided through Community Education and has 328 students enrolled. It operates five days a week from 6:45 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. SummerKids is located at the high school social studies area from June 13 until August 5, then they will move to Lincoln the last two weeks until August 19. Over 40 staff offer a variety of activities, including swimming, computer lab, art, crafts, reading, and special projects. This summer they are building two dog houses for Great River Rescue with the help of a school district carpenter. The children are kept busy throughout the community as well, visiting Nielson Place to interact with residents, Bemidji Aviation, and the Headwaters Science Center. SummerKids provides an important service to working parents in a fun, rich and varied environment.

A new program was offered in June using the new state **Indian Education** monies. Two **Reading Recovery** teachers provided one-on-one intensive reading instruction for eleven American Indian kindergarten and first grade students who needed extra help with reading. The program was offered at J. W. Smith Elementary from June 13 to June 30, four days per week, and parents were responsible for the transportation. Parents really appreciated this program, and all of the students increased two or more reading levels. If Indian Education has the resources again next summer, we plan to offer this program in conjunction with the 21st Century Program, so in-town transportation and meals can be available for students.