



# Community Education Collaborates!

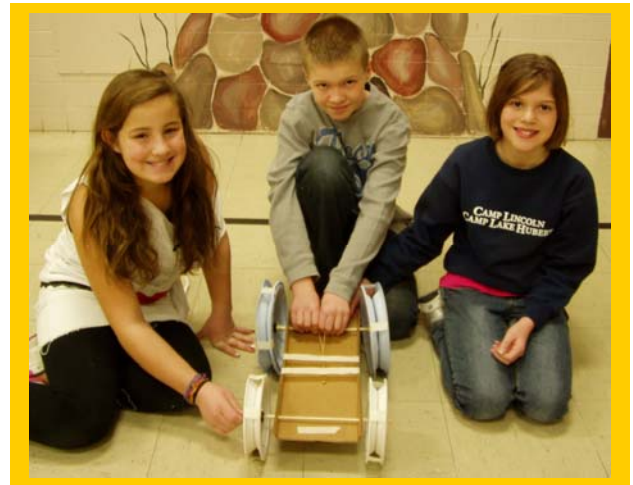
Community Education works continuously to develop and strengthen partnerships and collaborations that benefit the residents of Forest Lake Area School District. Staff members work together with representatives from other district programs, non-profit organizations, businesses, government entities and professional organizations in order to promote learning by offering educational, social and recreational opportunities for everyone.

We currently partner with nearly 100 different groups and organizations; a few of those partnerships are highlighted here.

## School Age Care (SAC)

A three year grant through the National Partnerships for After School Science (NPASS), MN School Age Care Association, and Science Museum of Minnesota makes it possible for the district's SAC students to have meaningful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) exploration experiences. Curriculum, staff training and science supplies are included in the grant. SAC Assistant Coordinator, Nancy Siefert is the cohort trainer for the NPASS science curriculum. Through this partnership, she is training SAC staff in North Branch, Chisago Lakes and Centennial School Districts.

SAC also works closely with the Community Education Aquatics and Youth Athletics departments to offer daytime opportunities for students during their time at SAC. This includes collaborations for swimming lessons and lacrosse instruction.



## Family Center

The Forest Lake Family Center collaborates with other school district programs to broaden the scope and quality of early childhood options for families with children birth – five years of age. Most Family Center classes are integrated with Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). This provides an opportunity for all students to learn along with their peers. ECSE specialists serve as a valuable resource for Family Center teachers in early identification and intervention efforts. A partnership with Community Education's School Age Care (SAC) makes a combined child care and preschool experience available for working families. Four year olds are able to attend preschool

classes at the Family Center with wrap around child care provided by SAC. The Family Learning Program, a combined effort of Adult Basic Education and the Family Center, offers opportunities for parents to work on English or GED skills while their children participate in quality preschool programs.

The Family Center also partners with a variety of county and community based programs. These collaborations include providing on-site support during selected Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics and partnering with Head Start to support monthly family nights with parent education, facilities and staffing.



## Aquatics

“Introduction to Swim Lessons for ESL Students” was a highly successful program offered for the first time this year through grant money and a private donation. Community Education offered this program with the help of ESL teachers in the district. This collaborative effort allowed 25 children and their families to learn water safety and age appropriate swim skills.

Forest Lake Area Schools Aquatics program is an authorized provider for the Twin Cities Red Cross. Through this partnership Community Education provides nationally recognized programs in water safety, first aid, and CPR for employees, students and community members.

Aquatics also works with home school families to provide quality swim lessons during open hours in the day. This is a great way to help maximize use of the pool.

## Elementary Youth Enrichment

Community Education Youth Enrichment collaborates with district teachers to provide academic enrichment opportunities for children in classes like “Math Power” and “Spanish Language Camp”. Through these programs, children have the opportunity to participate in fun activities that support learning.

District staff members bring their coaching talents to the annual Community Education Track and Field program. This popular activity is a great opportunity for kids to sample various track and field events and develop new skills.

Other partnerships with local businesses allow kids to explore activities of interest. Some of those collaborations include:

- Highway 8 Golf Center
- Shadow Creek Stables
- Down on the Farm
- Flyaways Gold Gym



## Secondary Youth Development



A strong partnership between Community Education's Secondary Youth Development Program and the Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau helps to provide students with opportunities for youth leadership, community involvement and service learning. Each organization dedicates staff and resources which help to ensure a successful and sustainable program. During a recent trip to the State Capitol, students got to tour the building and meet with local legislators including Representative Bob Dettmer (pictured above).

## Lakes Area Expo Student Art Show

The Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with district art teachers and Community Education, hosts a Forest Lake Schools Art Show. The student art show, coordinated by Forest Lake Area Schools, is part of the Lakes Area Expo. It provides a great opportunity to showcase the art work of students from all schools that belong to the Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce - all Forest Lake Area School District schools, Lakes International Language Academy, St Peter's and North Lakes Academy. Judges award ribbons and individuals attending the show vote to select a People's Choice winner. Local businesses sponsor the show and provide prizes for the winners.



## Adult Enrichment

The Adult Enrichment program partners with a wide variety of community businesses and non-profit organizations such as Tanners Brook Golf Club, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners and OSI Physical Therapy to name a few. These partnerships allow Community Education to provide classes utilizing instructors who are highly skilled and knowledgeable in their field. It also allows Adult Enrichment to hold classes in facilities and utilize equipment that would not otherwise be accessible.



## Adult Basic Education (ABE)

A FastTRAC grant with Washington County allows Adult Basic Education to work more closely with local Work Force Centers. Joining forces has streamlined processes for mutual clients and made additional education classes available. Through the FastTRAC grant, ABE has been able to work more closely with Century College to create a smoother transition to college settings for ABE students.



## Adults with Disabilities (LINK)

Community Education's involvement with CEND (Community Education Network on Disabilities) has led to the development of a strong, varied program for adults with disabilities in the community. Through working together, school districts who are involved in CEND are able to introduce their adults with disabilities participants to new opportunities and an expanded social circle. Collaborative activities have included river boat trips, t-ball tournaments, semi-formal dinner and dance and roller skating.



**For additional information about Community Education programs and partnerships, please visit our website at [www.communityed4u.org](http://www.communityed4u.org) or call (651) 982-8110.**