



Towanda Elementary School

"Home of the Bulldogs"

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Dear Board of Education,

At Towanda, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom walls. This year, we have seen a remarkable surge in student engagement through our diverse club offerings. These programs have become more than just lunch or after-school activities; they are vital spaces where our students find a **true sense of belonging** and a platform to share their unique passions.

What makes our current lineup of clubs special is that they weren't just "assigned". They grew from the needs and suggestions of our entire community:

- **Crochet Club:** This club was formed entirely because students took the initiative to ask for a space to learn and create together. Susan Steinbach, 4th grade teacher, volunteered to host each week during recess.
- **Yoga Club:** Brought to us through thoughtful parent suggestions by Amber Panozzo and Liz Moreschi, these parents lead out once a week during recess.
- **Book Club:** A generous partnership with our local library, Piper Arington comes once a week during recess.
- **Writing Club:** Driven by our dedicated teachers who are passionate about nurturing young authors and elevating the quality of our creative submissions. We cannot thank Lisa Heaser, Zarina Plath, Susan Steinbach, and Judy Lancaster enough for running this during recess.
- **Chess Club:** Providing a space for strategic thinking, patience, and healthy competition. Kevin Zalucha, Lindsay Zalucha, and Fred Schmidt run this club after school once a week!

At Towanda, we have a total population of **180 students**. I am proud to report that **111 individual students** participated in at least one club this session.

When students participate in these clubs, they aren't just learning how to cast a stitch or move a knight; they are building social-emotional resilience. They are finding "their people" and realizing that their interests have a home at Towanda.

Thank you for your continued support in making these opportunities possible for our students. We look forward to watching these programs continue to grow and flourish.

Best regards,

Andrea Lockhart
Principal