



### **Community Education**

- It's hard to believe, but our Summer Recreation season wrapped up just last week! A huge *thank you* goes out to every volunteer and staff member who made this summer such a great time to be a kid in the LPGE district. Your energy, creativity, and dedication made a lasting difference.
- With the season's end comes our program evaluation — an important step in shaping the future of our offerings. Your feedback helps us make improvements, introduce fresh ideas, and keep our programs moving in the right direction.
- Cassie and I are already deep into planning Fall 2025 programming. Our goal is to offer classes and activities that inspire, challenge, and support both our students and our community. Have a skill or talent you'd like to share? Or know someone who does? We'd love to hear from you! Call the LPGE Community Education Office at 320-357-3695.
- We continue to see strong teamwork between youth program providers in our area. Through collaboration between Community Education and other local organizations, we're able to coordinate services, reduce duplication, and ensure more opportunities reach more kids.
- Keep an eye out for the 2025 Fall Community Education & District Newsletter, arriving in the beginning of September. It's filled with exciting new trips and classes you won't want to miss!

### **21CCLC**

- As I am writing this newsletter, we have still not heard any news on the status of the 21st Century Grant. We are still planning on offering many of the same opportunities as we have in the past through the 21st Century. If 21st CCLC funding is not available, we will be charging a fee for these offerings and offering them through our Community Education Program.
- This summer's LPGE Summer Academy was a blast! Over 160 students spent three weeks learning, exploring, and having fun. Highlights included:
  - Learning about vibration and sound with the Science Crew
  - Attending the play *Moana* at the Andria Theatre in Alexandria, MN
  - Getting to have a fun day with bouncy houses, because Mother Nature gave us some dangerous smoke from Canada, which forced us to change our trip to the Como Zoo.
- Thanks to the 21st Century Grant, we were able to sponsor or partially fund 28 different learning opportunities for students entering grades 1–12.

### **Federal Programs**

- Summer Kindergarten Jump Start took place in the last week of July. The Jump Start program is sponsored by the LPGE Integration and Achievement Grant. The intention of the program is to allow students a chance to experience kindergarten before the school year starts. Each student attends half-day sessions that simulate what kindergarten is all about. This year's program was very successful. There was an excellent turnout, with some very excited

Kindergarten students learned many important things about kindergarten. Thanks to our wonderful staff, Maressa Rousslange, Caitlin Gustafson, Diana Hegseth, and Josean Rodriguez. The following is a list of skills that our kindergartners got to explore:

- identifying names of colors, shapes, letters, numbers
- counting (by rote and by counting objects)
- reciting the ABCs
- identifying first names
- writing first names
- identifying letters in first names
- how to use the following school supplies appropriately: glue sticks, dot daubers, markers, crayons, scissors, pencils, paint, books
- how to walk in a line/how to walk in the hallway appropriately
- sitting at the carpet for instructional times
- listening to a story and responding to it
- recognizing emotions
- taking turns
- sharing
- rotating through stations
- cleaning up toys after playtime
- using the BenQ board
- using playdough
- tracing lines with pencils, crayons, and markers, and cutting on lines with scissors

*\*Ms. Rousslange and Ms Gustafson said that they saw growth in behaviors and skills in just five days, and I feel like all of the students were excited to come to "school".*

- The Title I, II, and III Grants are in the process of being submitted. I say this because two of these grants have not been totally secured financially through the Federal Government. Many of the same holdups that we are experiencing with the 21st Century Grants are happening with Titles II and III. We have tentative awards, but the final financial commitment is still uncertain. As a reminder, Title I funds are the largest portion of the entitlement grants. Title I Funding intends to provide children with fair, equitable, and significant educational opportunities. Title II is used for class size reduction at the primary level. The Title III grant must be designated to support learning for students who qualify as Multilingual Language Learners. These federal grants are used in a variety of programs and personnel that are critical to student success throughout the LPGE Elementary. These grants are allocated one time a year. Funds are then reimbursed through a drawdown system.