



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Colleen Cardenuto
Director of Curriculum & Administrative Services
Bemidji Area Schools
333-3100 ext. 31103
colleen_cardenuto@isd31.net

Bemidji Area Schools and Boys & Girls Club receive grant for new learning centers

Bemidji Area Schools and Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, along with additional community organizations (listed below), were awarded a grant to establish three 21st Century Community Learning Center program sites to serve students during out-of-school time. Centers will be located at J.W. Smith Elementary School, Bemidji Middle School, and Bemidji High School. The Boys & Girls Club will operate the center at J.W. Smith, and the school district will oversee the centers at BMS and BHS. Funding has been secured for three years of operation.

The purpose of the centers is to provide students with academic support, enrichment activities, family literacy, and educational engagement events. Several partner community organizations are involved, including: Bemidji Community Education, Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, Concordia Language Villages, Headwaters Music & Arts, Headwaters Science Center, and Peacemaker Resources. Other community agencies may also be engaged throughout the grant period. The program represents an expansion of current offerings, bringing together services by the school district and the Boys & Girls Club, along with other partner agencies, to serve students and families in central locations.

The centers will open in Fall 2023, with more details to come. “We are excited to strengthen our partnerships to build a strong foundation, supporting our students and families,” shared Dr. Olson, ISD 31 superintendent.