



BLOSSOM WOOD DAY SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER EVALUATION

PROGRAM YEAR

2012-2013

A 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER FUNDED IN PART BY THE MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
COHORT 5

BUILDING BETTER LEARNERS



WE'RE BUILDING BETTER LEARNERS!

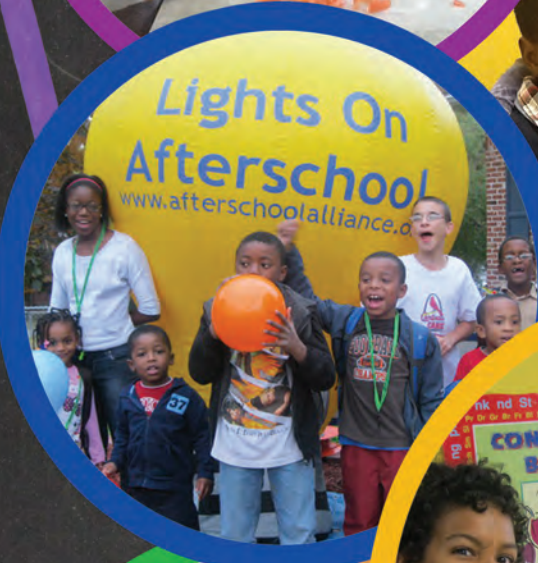
The fourth year of Blossom Wood's Scholars Club offered us a great opportunity to "build" on a program that has evolved in many ways for our students and families. Our future course is now being carefully chartered as we look at new ways to work with stakeholders in our community to make both after school and summer options for children better in North St. Louis County.

The Scholars Club is unique because it offers hope for partnership between private and public schools and demonstrates how taking the first step toward inclusion can create foundations for student success. We are pleased that Hazelwood School District representatives visit our programs, willingly share Scholars Club student progress data and in 2013 asked for representation from Blossom Wood to sit on the district CSTAR committee. As we move forward, we invite you to visit and join our efforts as we build bridges of greater connections to student learning and expand the accessibility to high quality learning experiences to more children in our community.

Mikia Pollard
Head of School



WE'RE BUILDING BETTER LEARNERS!



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

MISSION STATEMENT:

“To equip students for academic excellence through community inclusion and to engage in partnerships for learning in a safe nurturing environment during non-school hours”.

THEME FOR THE 2012-13 YEAR:

“Building Better Students”

CURRENT STRATEGIES IN PLACE ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION:

Community based After school and Summer programs as an extension of a non-public school that includes academic enrichment for before, after school and summer programs. The 21st Community Learning Center currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade on-site at Blossom Wood Day School and four (4) public schools in the Hazelwood School District.

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

Geographic Location: hazelwood-North St. Louis County, MO

Clients Served in 2012-13: 143 unduplicated afterschool and summer

Programs & Funding:

- After School Program, 57% grant, 30% tuition, 10% child care subsidy, 3% fundraising
- Summer Program, 55% grant, 35% tuition, 10% child care subsidy

Program Evaluation Areas: Map testing, parent surveys, student surveys, parent advisory group and after school programs through contracted service agreements.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS:

- Strong, highly invested leadership
- Experienced teachers committed to active learning
- Stable community partnerships
- Unique; school has a rarely found philosophy of serving public school students
- High levels of daily afterschool attendance
- Good parent support for kids
- Variety of academic enrichment programs offered
- Niche market – able to recognize uniqueness in children and capitalize on small size to do this with passion and enthusiasm.
- Low Student-Teacher Ratio (1 - 4 to 1 - 12-student/teacher ratios)
- New alliances and partnership formed with public school district
- Low staff turnover



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS CONTINUED: —

- MAP scores have improved among 3rd through 6th graders
- 30% of Scholars Club participants are honor roll students
- Gifted and challenged children alike do well due to open ended curriculum
- No bullying in the school – safe environment
- Full meal (Supper) served daily afterschool, at no extra cost
- Full Breakfast offered each morning
- Family friendly, extra touches such as parent coffee cart in the mornings
- Books provided at no additional cost
- Extended school day with academic component, afterschool
- Polite, respectful, nurturing environment
- Handicapped accessible.
- Community friendly programs serve public school kids before, after school and summer
- Significant professional development offered to staff
- Partnerships are long lasting, most for five years
- Sustainable programming implemented in year one of grant
- Leveraged funding streams evident



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES:

- Lack of diversity in student body. (Fewer Males and non African-American students)
- Lack of understanding and buy-in by parents beyond homework support
- Lack of parent exit interviews
- STEM based activities and programs are limited
- Operational funding requires needs for grants
- Variables need to be operationalized. Plan to use data to improve operations.
- Some programmatic weaknesses, i.e.: lack of sports offerings
- Weak communication/marketing in the community
- No afterschool programs in the community for collaboration a
- Limited social/emotional services for children

THREATS:

CURRENT TRENDS:

- Recovering economy causing parents to consider return each year
- Lack of information in the community regarding availability of program
- Growing population of younger students (K-3)
- Financial sustainability without grant funding will decrease partnerships
- Influx of younger parents with less interest in direct contact participation
- More children in attendance who are at risk; needing more academic support services
- Socioeconomic gap among families is widening
- Children in great need of social emotional services
- Changing demographics among enrolled families to more low-income and single parents who need increased support services

COMPETITORS

- Catholic/Lutheran Schools: (4) Church funded limited only to tuition paying students enrolled for full day and have lower afterschool fees due to large numbers enrolled. Programs generally limited to homework and very limited recreation. The schools have built in marketing and resources through the congregation and church consortium. They have large community based comprehensive sports programs.
- Day Care Centers: (6) Facilities tend to be designed for young children with limited space and activities for older children. Parents choose this option for convenience when there are multiple children and they provide transportation from public schools. School



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

COMPETITORS CONTINUED

age programs may have staff with limited education and programs are generally non-academic or curriculum aligned. Cost can be expensive.

- **Public Schools:** Free, marginally accredited, but overcrowded and have significant problems with behavior and student safety. No district provided afterschool programs at the elementary level.
- **Private Religious School:** (1) Have full day academic programs and basic afterschool program mostly connected to homework completion an limited recreation. Afterschool programs only open to enrolled full day students.



INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Highly communal school-100% of Scholars know all staff members by name
- Highly child focused- Activities are planned with student input and monitored for interest
- Small class sizes-The Afterschool program offers a 1:8 ratio for most activities with 1:15 being the largest
- Happy kids/Few behavior problems-89% of Scholars felt they have enough activity options
- No stress or bureaucracy-100% of Scholars said they felt safe and that staff handled problems right away
- Parents expect a good program-91% of parents said they know more about the importance of afterschool
- Academic services for children and parents-96% of parents said they consider the Scholars Club an academic partner
- 41% of scholars Club students made Honor Roll in School two or more quarters
- Hazelwood School District Director of Federal Programs joined the Community Advisory Committee in 2013.
- Increase in number of public schools served in the Hazelwood School District by the Scholars Club: Served 4 in 2012-13. (Russell, Armstrong, Lusher, Hazelwood Middle).
- 83% of 2012 summer camp students returned for summer programs in 2013.
- 94% of students receiving academic tutoring showed improvement in spring standardized test scores.



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OPPORTUNITIES:

- Opportunity to create additional fundraising events
- Opportunity to create a new community marketing plan.
- Opportunity to craft and engage new social teaching strategies.
- Opportunity to capitalize on 21st Century Community Learning Center designation as the only non-public school in Missouri with that designation.
- Opportunity to expand the school's philosophy of "private school with public responsibility", inclusive opportunities for learning

GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED:

1. Engage additional partners with attention to sustainable programs
2. Build on, strengthen and extend student programs
3. Increase STEM based programs
4. Increase community awareness of inclusion opportunities (public school students)
5. Obtain additional Financial Resources
6. Create and implement a marketing strategy and recruitment plan



QUOTES

"This food is delicious"
-after school student

"I love that kids from other schools come after school. We get to have more friends!"
-after school student

"It's a good thing we don't have bullies here!"
-after school student

"I'm learning to swim and I really am!"
-summer camper

"She made me learn and I didn't even know it!"
-after school student

"Look what I made,"
-summer camper

"Yes! you have to go now!"
-summer camp parent

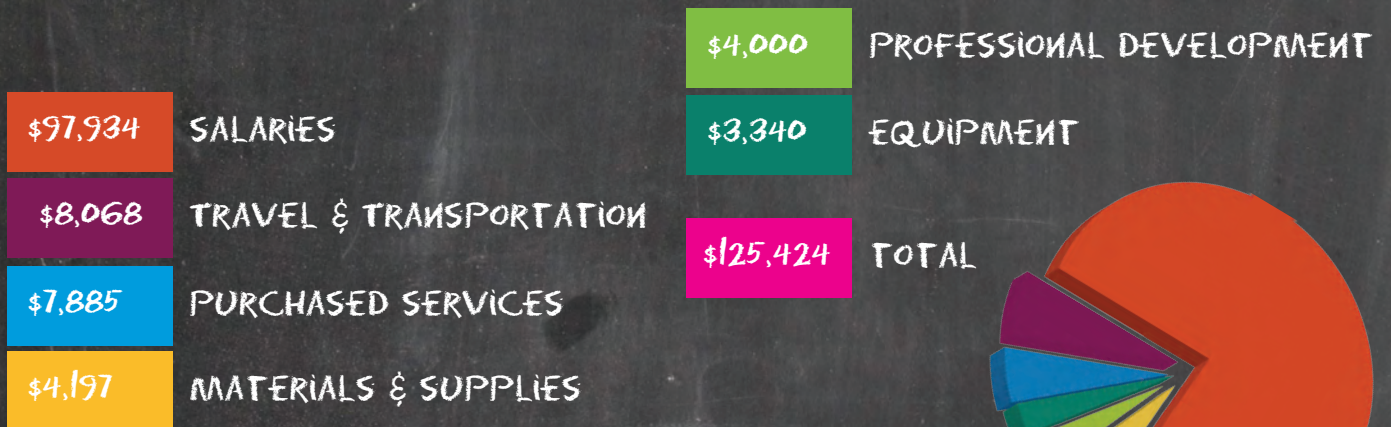
"I am so grateful to your fine staff. My son learned to ride his bike!"
-summer camp parent

"How can I get that cooking class recipe?"
-after school parent

"He absolutely loves this place!"
-afterschool parent

FINANCIALS

The Scholars Club was made possible in part through a grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- Extended Learning Section



NOTES