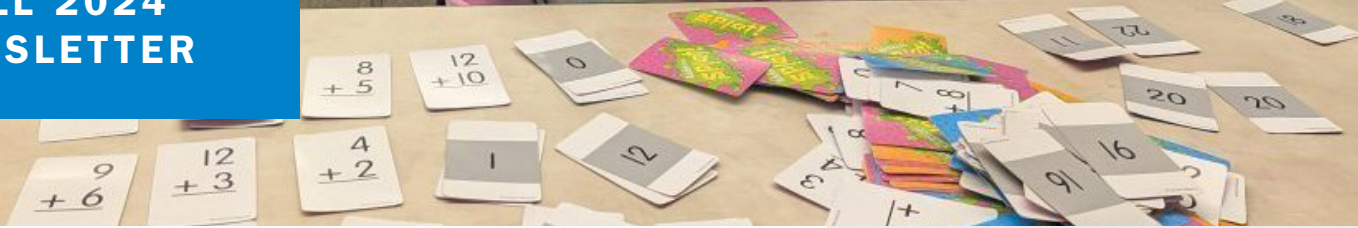




BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Supporting an Increased Number of Youth this School Year

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (BGCTC) kicked off the 2024-2025 school year with **13 CLUB LOCATIONS** being served, including **THREE NEW LOCATIONS** to meet the needs of our communities:

Elk River Boys & Girls Club

Opened October 2023 | Serving K-12 area youth

Voyageur Environmental Club

Opened January 2024 | Serving grades K-12 youth

The John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club at V3 Sports

Opened July 2024 | Serving grades K-12 youth



As a result of this amazing growth, the number of impact Members (Club members attending 30+ days per year) has increased by 15%!

In addition to expanding our reach and serving an increased number of youth and families, BGCTC is strengthening our program delivery model with innovative strategies that are proving to be extremely effective. Club kids and teens are striving for and achieving incredible milestones!

Learn more about our new clubs: boysandgirls.org/about/who-we-are/club-locations

School Year Programming

PROGRAM HOURS:

MON – FRI, 2:00PM – 9:00PM
(Hours may vary per Club site and holiday schedules)

PROGRAMS: Daily programming includes focus on Academic Success, Health & Wellness, and Life & Workforce programs, as well as additional opportunities for field trips.

SNACK/MEALS: Afternoon snacks and evening meals are served daily.

COST: FREE!

TO BECOME A CLUB MEMBER:

Complete the registration form on BGCTC's website:

boysandgirls.org/membership-form



Our North Star

All Members on track for a successful future beyond high school graduation

BGCTC's Academic Success strategy prepares young people to **BECOME LIFELONG LEARNERS** by providing transformational and inclusive programming that supports essential skill building and academic achievement for K-12 youth. BGCTC approaches this strategy in a variety of ways...

Supports Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Skill Building

STAFF TRAINING DELIVERS RESULTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

At BGCTC, providing opportunities for professional development and training is an integral part of ensuring we are providing high-quality programming to meet the needs of youth. In response to the Minnesota READ (Reading to Ensure Academic Development) Act that was signed into law in May 2023, BGCTC implemented the Lexia Language Essentials for Teachers for Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training certification program. LETRS is a two-year certification on evidence-based reading instruction. Currently 22 BGCTC staff members have completed the first year of training and are on track to receive this graduate-level certification in 2025.



"More and more, we see kids struggling with the foundation of reading...The tools that LETRS has given us really does lay that foundation...By using some of the tools taught in LETRS, Club Members have been able to identify letters, letter sounds and begin writing simple words."

-CAMRYN RETTIG, K-5 Education Specialist



"The LETRS training has helped me see things differently when it comes to teaching literacy. I've noticed kids sounding out words differently and it has really helped with their spelling."

-TERRY HINTON, Education Specialist

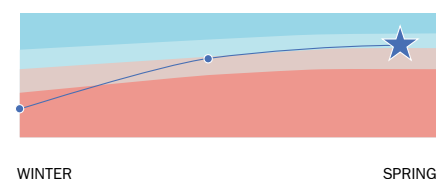
LEVELING UP AT THE CLUBS



Theo

Theo, a second grader, loves attending Club. At first, he was shy and barely spoke to staff or others. By building relationships with Club staff and participating in Club programming, Theo has come out of his shell and is excelling academically. From winter to spring, he moved from the "some risk" category to "low risk" category in reading.

THEO'S SCORES



Provides Access to Educational Resources

OVER 5,000 NEW BOOKS ADDED TO BGCTC'S LIBRARY + ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-8

BGCTC's library has expanded across all Club sites with new, hardcover copies of culturally relevant and leveled books. This is made possible by the partnerships created through BGCTC's Education Advisory Council of leaders in the education technology industry that provide ongoing support and consultation to BGCTC staff. The Council is comprised of representatives from local education publishing companies including Capstone, Renaissance Learning, Cambium, Edmentum, Read Naturally, and FastBridge Learning. As a result of this partnership, BGCTC Club youth also have access to 7,000+ digital books through MyOn, a student-centered, personalized digital library.

At BGCTC, we understand the variety of barriers that many families face when it comes to education. By providing equitable access to educational resources, we are helping bridge academic and opportunity gaps experienced by Club youth and families. BGCTC staff recently completed a training session on the implementation of Edmentum, an online diagnostic-driven educational program that focuses specifically on reading and math proficiency for youth grades 6-8. This new tool is also a result of the partnerships created through BGCTC's Education Advisory Council .



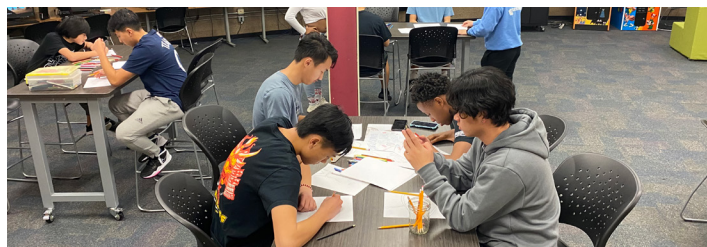
Instills a Sense of Confidence and Love of Learning



HANDS-ON STEM ACTIVITIES ARE MORE FUN THAN HOMEWORK

BGCTC's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programming delivers a variety of fun and engaging activities that offer alternative ways to learn and build confidence. In partnership with Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium), BGCTC's STEM Mentoring program brings together youth and mentors for fun, hands-on STEM activities.

STEM programming is offered at all Club sites. In Mr. Rudy's class, Mt. Airy Club youth had a blast doing "Crazy 8's" - a curriculum that explores the math behind some fun topics including spies, dice, and playing cards.



HOOPS & HOMEWORK – BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH STUDENTS AND SCHOOL STAFF

In an effort to reach teens who need additional academic support and a safe place to be during after school hours, BGCTC staff at Camden High School Boys & Girls Club met with school staff to find a solution. The resulting program, Hoops & Homework, provides a unique opportunity for teens who are interested in pursuing a career in education to tutor their peers. The student tutors are paid by Camden High School for their tutoring services. After homework, teens head to the gym to play basketball. Hoops & Homework attendance has been strong, and the program has been especially helpful in addressing the educational requirements for student athletes. In addition, this program has helped build relationships between younger and older teens.

Creates a Clear Path to Graduation

BREAKING BARRIERS THROUGH SCHOOL OUTREACH

BGCTC staff at the Little Earth Boys & Girls Club have worked diligently to create a safe and welcoming space for youth in the Little Earth community. To raise awareness of the programming and resources available, BGCTC staff have established a consistent presence in nearby schools 4-5 days per week. This has helped tremendously to build relationships with students, teachers, and parents. As a result, we are seeing an increase in attendance at the Club and are able to provide more individualized support for our Club members.



COLLEGE VISIT HELPS ESTABLISH CAREER PATHWAY

BGCTC teens recently toured Minneapolis College's state-of-the-art Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) Program Lab which included Q & A with a panel of recent HVAC Program graduates and the Dean of the School of Trade Technologies. One BGCTC teen enrolled in the HVAC Program following their visit!



"I chose Minneapolis College for its top-notch HVAC program and impressive facilities. Their affordable tuition was also a key factor in my decision."

-EDWIN FLORES, RECENT EAST SIDE CLUB GRADUATE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Michelle Dapper

This year, BGCTC partnered with Minneapolis Public Schools to bring additional literacy support to several of our Clubs. One of these dedicated educators, Michelle Dapper – who is also a proud Boys & Girls Club Alum – was thrilled to return and contribute to the opportunities that shaped her own journey.



Please tell us about your current profession and your “why” for the work you are doing.

I am a 4th grade teacher at Monroe Elementary in Brooklyn Park. I love this job because of the connections and relationships I have formed with my students, families, and colleagues. Helping students develop self-confidence and a love of learning is so rewarding, and I love when a student finally grasps an idea or concept and feels proud of themselves.

How did your Club experience prepare you for your post-secondary pursuits?

The Boys & Girls Club helped me prepare for college because I was involved in leadership groups like Keystone. This gave me public speaking skills and interview skills, which I used to get jobs and volunteer opportunities in college. Through the Club, I also learned important study skills, time management skills, and financial literacy skills. These all helped me in college. My parents did not go to college, so everything was new to me. I am grateful to the staff members who took time to help me prepare for college and beyond.

How has your Club experience impacted you and contributed to the person you are today?

The Club was a constant in my life ever since the age of six. When I first started at the Club, I was shy and tended to keep to myself. The Club helped me break out of my shell, make new friends and mentors, and become the friendly, social, responsible leader and teacher I am today. Without the emotional, academic, and even financial support I received, I may not have even been able to be so successful in undergrad and grad school. I am so grateful for the connections and memories I have, and I am always looking for ways to volunteer and give back.

SUCCESS AHEAD



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THIS YEAR'S SUCCESS AHEAD CAMPAIGN!

Together we raised **OVER \$20,000**, ensuring all Club kids and teens have the resources and support they need to reach their academic goals this school year.

We'd also like to thank our corporate partners who provided in-kind support for the campaign with **OVER 900 BACKPACKS** filled with essential supplies to help our Club members start the school year ready to succeed.

Give in Gratitude

We invite you to participate in our **GIVE IN GRATITUDE** campaign, running through December 31, 2024. Your gift, no matter the size, will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of the youth we serve.

Scan or go to:
boysandgirls.org/give-in-gratitude



KIDS CAN GIVE

Join us in embracing the true spirit of the holiday season by participating in our Kids Can Give Holiday Gift Drive. We will be receiving gift donations through December 11, 2024. Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the week of December 16.

Scan or go to:
boysandgirls.org/kids-can-give



Get Involved with the Clubs!

Volunteer

boysandgirls.org/get-involved/volunteers

1

Committed volunteers help magnify the impact of the Clubs.

Become a Corporate Partner

boysandgirls.org/corporate-partnerships

2

Corporate partners help advance the BGCTC mission and provide ongoing support.

Make a Recurring Gift

boysandgirls.org/give

3

A recurring monthly donation, no matter the amount, is a powerful investment in the next generation.

Join Our Team

boysandgirls.org/get-involved/careers

4

Make a difference by helping youth reach their full potential.

SAVE THE DATE



February 15, 2025
Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club
boysandgirls.org/great-futures



April 25, 2025
The Depot Minneapolis
boysandgirls.org/for-the-kids



Dates TBA
boysandgirls.org/bgctc-connect