

Location: Best Elementary School

1. How is the afterschool program aligned with the school day?

The program specialist meets with the principal weekly and attends the Wednesday staff meeting for the first 30 minutes. Staff members are in contact with a teacher at their grade level weekly to get exchange updates on individual students and receive tips on how to help with the current homework. Tutors are assigned after school based on assessments of students taken during school. Instructional Technicians, along with having a mentor teacher to check in with, have monthly scheduled meetings with day teachers to go over anything from disciplinary strategies to how to conduct a more effective homework center. School rules during the day are exactly the same as after school so that students aren't confused and so we can stay on the same page as teachers and day staff.

2. What differentiates the afterschool program from the school day?

The afterschool staff has built strong relationships with students who struggle during the school day and their families. Students love the art, dance, and cooking enrichment classes. Intramural sports teams (football, soccer, and basketball) are also popular. Students from lower income households tend to get more attention after school because the demographic is slightly different than during the day. Our sports teams and enrichment separate the two, as our enrichment classes always differ from those offered by the PTA, and there are no organized sports during school hours. The Instructional Technicians after school are far more diverse ethnically than teachers during school are, allowing for students to learn more about different cultures, and sometimes allows for students to feel more comfortable with their surroundings.

3. If there is a BEARS program at your site, how are the two programs integrated?

BEARS and LEARNS students start together at the beginning of the afternoon by listening to the announcements and having snack together. BEARS students are included in the enrichment classes and the BEARS teacher teaches one of the classes. BEARS students participate in the intramural sports teams.

4. What are your site's goals for the year?

This year we are focusing on staff development through the following goals: 1. Brainstorm successful enrichment activities, 2. Develop and deliver showcase of enrichment ideas, and 3. Develop and deliver training on academic support.