



*Making Dreams of Academic
Success Come True!*

MuncieP3

Program Mission and Vision

The mission of the MuncieP3 program is to ensure that all children are proficient in reading by 3rd grade. This afterschool and summer enrichment program is based on community-identified need and begins with students the summer before kindergarten and follows them through 3rd grade. The “P3,” which originally stood for “preschool to 3rd grade,” has transformed into program precepts that include **Promise, Partnership, and Potential**. The program **promises** families that with their active **partnership**, their children’s full **potential** will be realized. Since its inception in 2010, the program has been funded by a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Indiana Department of Education, as well as generous gifts from the Ball Brothers Foundation and Heart of Indiana United Way.

Program participants, known as “Emerging Scholars,” meet at Longfellow Elementary School in grade-level cohorts Monday – Friday from 2:30 – 5:30. During this time and over the course of the school year, they develop into a close-knit community of friends and have opportunities to participate in recreational activities, literacy centers (during which they actively explore concepts about print, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension), and enrichment activities such as learning Spanish, karate, music, and dance. Working actively with families and the larger community, the program privileges experiences that are culturally responsive and community sustaining. The program also works collaboratively with school-day teachers (several of whom who are teachers in the MuncieP3 program) to complement, not duplicate, what children are learning during the school day. In addition to its afterschool component, the MuncieP3 program also provides a summer enrichment program for K-3 students to ease the transition to kindergarten, maintain connection with children and families outside the traditional school year, and address summer learning loss.

Authentic partnership with the families of Emerging Scholars is at the heart of the program philosophy and practice. Program staff operate with the understanding that the program is merely one stop on families’ educational path, and that they are privileged to be a part of the journey. At enrollment, family members articulate the hopes and dreams they have for their children – aspirations that are honored and pursued throughout the years we share together. At the beginning of each afterschool session, all Emerging Scholars gather and recite the program pledge which begins “I commit myself to a dream...” The program mantra, “*dream, believe, achieve*,” informs the vision the program holds for the future of its scholars; one that is being realized. From 2013 -2019 Emerging Scholars achieved at or above the state average each year on the IREAD literacy assessment.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How do students register/get accepted?**
 - Families are recruited the summer before their students begin kindergarten and are invited to participate in our 3-week Summer Jump Start experience during which time students have the opportunity to meet their kindergarten teachers and ease the transition to formal schooling. Families interested in the MuncieP3 program meet with the program director for information about the program and the commitment to a 4-year afterschool and summer complementary learning and academic enrichment experience. As additional openings in specific grade level cohorts occur due to attrition, families are contacted and are encouraged to have their students enroll.

- **What is the timeframe?**
 - MuncieP3 program participants join the program the summer before kindergarten and participate in afterschool, literacy-focused academic enrichment daily from 2:40-5:30 pm during the school year. They also participate in a 3-week Summer Jump Start experience from 8:30am-12:30pm. Interested students may also participate in a 4th-5th grade, one-semester, afterschool STEM program, which takes place in the spring of the academic year.
- **Is there any cost?**
 - The MuncieP3 program is offered at no cost to participating families, however, families are asked to commit to engagement activities that are instrumental to their students' success.
- **What activities are offered?**
 - MuncieP3 participants engage in daily physical, social/emotional, and literacy-focused enrichment activities which complement their school-day experiences. In kindergarten, students explore the theme of “**community**,” in first grade, participants learn about different **careers**; in second grade, our young scholars are introduced to ways in which **post-secondary study and training** can help them achieve their dreams; and in third grade, MuncieP3 students discover the value of giving back to the community and participating in **community service**. Each spring, all students participate in “Fun Friday” experiences offered by community members with expertise in particular offerings (e.g., karate, cooking, dance, foreign language, etc.). Additionally, each spring, 4th and 5th grade student have the opportunity to participate in **XSTREAM** (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Program on-site and in the community that bolster their creative thinking, problem solving, and scientific knowledge.
- **Is the program limited to a certain number of students?**
 - Classroom size in each contained grade level does not generally exceed 20 students.
- **How many adults supervise? Are they licensed teachers?**
 - Each grade-level classroom has a **lead teacher** who has expertise in working with children and youth and who is often a member of the community, a **licensed teacher**, and a **classroom aide**.
- **What's a typical day like?**
 - MuncieP3 participants begin their afterschool experience with the opportunity to complete homework, to participate in “shake-it-off” physical activity, and to enjoy a meal together. Following this, students participate in a suite of literacy experiences (**Daily 5**) during which key concepts are reinforced. Monthly, every student receives a piece of literature that has been carefully selected to add to their home library. Field trips to places of interest in the larger community further complement students' experiences and are an integral part of MuncieP3.
- **Is it for every grade level? If so, are students grouped by grade level?**
 - The MuncieP3 program is predicated on grouping students in grade-level cohorts. The friendships resulting from grouping program participants together for the 4 years of their K-3 experience have been documented as significant and lasting, as students' progress through middle and high school.
- **Are food and drinks provided/available?**
 - A healthy, daily, meal is provided by Fresh Directions, at no cost to program participants.