

2023-2024 DASSEL-COKATO COMMUNITY EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT



LEARN,

TEACH, GROW



WELCOME TO ... COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hello and Welcome to Dassel-Cokato Community Services!

At Dassel-Cokato Schools, Community Services is comprised of three dynamic departments: Community Education, Communications, and Health Services. Each of these departments shares a common goal, to serve students, families and the community. This report will highlight community education programs and their successes throughout the last year.

Schools are often seen as the heart of a community and community education plays a vital role in fostering connections with learners of all ages and the school community. Our programs help create new friendships, encourage health and well-being, and cultivate engagement in a variety of areas.

As you read through this document, we invite you to take notice of our pictures. Featured throughout are the faces of our children, friends, and families - the fabric of our community. Relationships are at the core of everything we do and our hope is that, through this report, you will gain a deeper understanding of the dedication community education has to creating, building, and strengthening relationships by fostering life-long learners each step of the way.

Thank you for your time,
ABBEY LANG,
Director of Community Services



GROW with EARLY CHILDHOOD

Dassel-Cokato Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is for all families with children between the ages of birth and 5 years old. It is the mission of ECFE to strengthen families and support the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children. The beliefs behind this mission include:

- Learning is a process that begins at birth
- Parents are their child's first and most important teachers
- Education is a process of growth and development and is not limited to formal instruction or schools.

Early Childhood has a very active Advisory Council that provides support and feedback regarding early learning and parenting opportunities.



51

families
participated
in ECFE

123

participants
attended
ECFE classes

“ *ECFE changed the course of my parenting journey in an unbelievably positive way. My whole family has found support through the turbulence and triumphs of life with littles. Many thanks to the staff for creating a safe environment for kids and parents to express themselves!*

-ECFE Parent

”

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Early Childhood Screening supports children's readiness for kindergarten and promotes health and development. Screening is a free and simple check that may link families to early learning opportunities and resources such as, Early Childhood Family Education, preschool programs, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Learning Scholarships, home visiting programs and more. Screening is ideally performed closest to age 3.

Early Childhood Screening includes:

- Thinking, Language & Communication Skills
- Social & Emotional Development
- Large & Small Muscle Development
- Hearing, Vision, Height & Weight

4

screenings
per year

138

children
screened



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TEACH PLAY AND LEARN PRESCHOOL



Play and Learn Preschool / School Readiness is here to support all children in strengthening their social, emotional, cognitive, and motor development skills. Our classes help students build upon their skills, grow and flourish.

The program's primary focuses include:

- Encourage discovery and exploration in a play-based, responsive environment
- Promote a confident, positive attitude toward learning
- Support parents in their child's education; enhance school-home connections
- Develop age-appropriate social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills
- Provide parenting education to increase knowledge, understanding, skills, and experience in child development and learning.
- Serve children of all abilities through inclusive education opportunities.

“ *DC Play and Learn Preschool has been so beneficial to our son. He loves exploring new topics and we have seen his love for learning flourish. The teachers are amazing and care about our son's education.* ”
-Preschool Parent

118
preschoolers
attended

8 preschool sections
3 preschool locations:

Cokato Elementary
Dassel Elementary
Early Childhood Center

CHARGER KIDS CLUB: school-age child care

Each student is unique and special and at Charger Kids Club, we strive to provide a safe and fun environment for all. Charger Kids Club (CKC) is a school-age child care program for students in preschool through 5th grade. We provide programming focusing on social, emotional, and creative development. Our caring staff offer a wide variety of programming including arts and crafts, individual and group activities, lots of fresh air on our playgrounds, and so much more!



We offer care before school from 6:00-8:00 am and after school from 3:00-6:00 pm. On non-school days and during the summer months, the program is open from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. During the school year, Charger Kids Club is located at both Cokato and Dassel Elementaries. However in the summer months it moves to the High School/Middle School campus. This allows students to take advantage of summer community education programs and amenities such as the swimming pool, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and DC Rec Center.



“ *Charger Kids Club has been great for our family! Times and dates of care have been very convenient. My son being able to walk from his classroom at Dassel Elementary each day is a big ease off of my mind! I know he is accounted for, cared for, and in a comfortable setting.* ”
 -Charger Kids Club Parent

	Enrolled	Attended Daily
Morning School Year:	33	30
Afternoon School Year:	103	62
Summer 2024:	106	75



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LITTLE CHARGERS: wraparound child care

Little Chargers Childcare offers wraparound childcare services to enrolled DC Play and Learn preschool students in two locations: Cokato Elementary and the DC Community Ed. and Early Childhood Center. Our program is a balanced, high-quality opportunity focused on social, emotional, and creative development. Our dedicated staff provides a nurturing, fun, and safe environment for students for our youngest students.

This program is not an extension of preschool but rather supports it through fun, theme-based activities. It's important to give children the ability to play and choose how they play. We believe in supporting this by offering several opportunities to do so throughout the day.

	Enrolled	Average Daily Attendance
Cokato Location:	23	15
Early Childhood Location:	18	11



“ *Little Chargers Childcare (LCC) has been a blessing and is essential for my child to attend Play & Learn Preschool. Without a wraparound care option, the opportunities that Play & Learn Preschool offer wouldn't be possible for our family. The LCC team does an exceptional job fostering the social development of 3-5 year olds, while thoughtfully reinforcing the classroom lessons in an engaging manner. We are immensely grateful to the LCC program for being an incredible environment to support Kindergarten readiness for DC preschoolers.* ”

-Preschool Parent





Community Education's youth recreation programs continue to be some of the most desired programs in the school district.

- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Cheerleading
- Softball
- Football
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- Strength & Conditioning
- Hockey & Open Skate
- Volleyball

Many of our youth sports programs (Gr. K-6) are built in collaboration with high school varsity coaches. We appreciate this relationship as we begin developing the athletes that will one day make up their teams.

There is a continued need for parent volunteer coaches to assist in coaching many of our youth recreation activities. They play a vital role in the program's success. Recruiting volunteers has become more challenging, as many are unavailable to coach due to work and family commitments or feel they lack the necessary skills to lead and instruct. We're exploring ways to provide them with the tools they need to be successful coaches.

We also work cooperatively with local youth associations/groups including:

- D-C Youth Basketball Association
- D-C Softball Association
- Wrestling Boosters
- Gymnastics Boosters
- D-C Ski & Snowboard Club
- D-C Youth Rec Hockey

2881
youth recreation
registrations in

20
recreational areas

YOUTH RECREATION



YOUTH ENRICHMENT

STEM classes offer students exciting opportunities to develop technology skills while learning how to collaborate, plan, design, and solve problems. A variety of STEM courses are offered including:

- COR Robotics Summer Camps
- FIRST Lego League
- Robotics Club



We were extremely excited to partner with Fungus Amongus this summer to offer a week-long theatre camp. Giving students the opportunity to develop their theatre and acting skills in a fun and interactive environment, these young actors explored ways to express their creativity and spontaneity as well as build their confidence. Over 40 students in grades 1 through 8 participated in this offering which culminated in a showcase performance for friends, family and fellow campers.



Students developed their musical skills through MS jazz band. Baking, cooking and cookie decorating classes are always popular for our young aspiring chefs. Babysitting and safe-at-home courses were offered to students to help them be better prepared while home alone or watch other children.





AQUATICS

Community Education staffs the High School Pool with a variety of aquatic programs, including Red Cross Swimming Lessons, Aquacise (water aerobics), Lap Swim, Open Swim, Competitive Swim Club, Special Events and Private Rentals.

Lifeguards and water safety instructors are certified through the American Red Cross. The majority of staff are current high school students and returning college students. To help secure staff, Community Education offsets training expenses in return for commitment to our aquatics team. We were excited to add a new Pool Manager, Kim Ortloff, to our team. Kim comes to us with many years of experience in coaching and teaching swim lessons. She has been a great asset to our staff as one of her primary roles is to help develop the skills of our swim instructors.

Swim lessons were offered throughout the school year, and multiple daily and evening sessions were held during the summer. We have found a great deal of success offering swim lessons on Sunday afternoons and have seen a continual rise in the demand for families seeking private lessons. A summer partnership with Annandale Community Education enabled the neighboring students to participate in swim lessons that are otherwise not offered in their community.

A D-C satellite location of the High Tides Swim Club of Hutchinson continues to be a popular option for dedicated swimmers. Students have the option to swim multiple times a week to expand and maintain their stroke skills while building endurance.

753
swim lessons

- 151:** fall lessons
- 175:** spring lessons
- 427:** summer lessons



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ADULT **ACTIVITIES**

A variety of learning opportunities are created for adults which enhance continuing education for all ages and supports a lifetime educational journey.

New and different classes continued to be offered to determine what fits the needs of our community. Many adults took advantage of skating & hockey offerings in the Rec Center this past year.

ADULT **BASIC EDUCATION**

Dassel-Cokato Adult Basic Education (ABE) is a part of the Glacial Lakes Adult Basic Education Consortium made up of 10 local school districts. Students from Dassel-Cokato attend classes at the Litchfield or Hutchinson sites both online or in person.

COMMUNITY **EVENTS**

Community Ed. & Early Childhood hosted some events for the community this past year.

50th Annual Craft Fair

Nov. 4, 2023

Early Childhood Fundraiser

craft vendors **117**

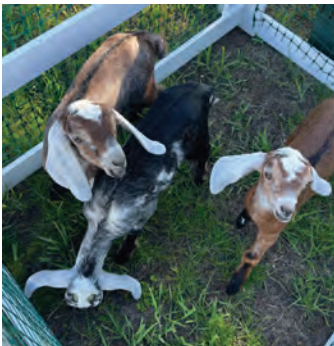
patrons

≈2,600

Early Childhood Down on the Farm Celebration

May 9, 2024

End of the year event celebrating kids, farms and animals in partnership with D-C FFA.



attendees
≈250



PROGRAM USE 2018-2024

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ED.

2023-24: 1.8%
 2022-23: 2.7%
 2021-22: 3.7%
 2020-21: 3.1%
 2019-20: 4.8%
 2018-19: 3.2%
 2017-18: 3.3%

SCREENING

2023-24: 2.0%
 2022-23: 3.0%
 2021-22: 3.2%
 2020-21: 3.2%
 2019-20: 4.3%
 2018-19: 3.0%
 2017-18: 2.8%

ADULT ENRICHMENT

2023-24: 1.9%
 2022-23: 3.1%
 2021-22: 2.5%
 2020-21: 2.0%
 2019-20: 6.6%
 2018-19: 8.2%
 2017-18: 7.9%

PRESCHOOL

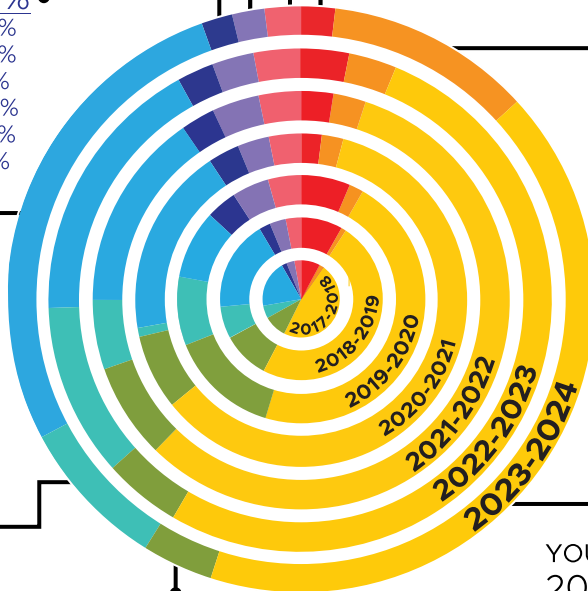
2023-24: 1.7%
 2022-23: 2.4%
 2021-22: 2.6%
 2020-21: 3.1%
 2019-20: 4.0%
 2018-19: 2.2%
 2017-18: 2.1%

ADULT RECREATION

2023-24: 11.3%
 2022-23: 3.1%
 2021-22: 3.0%
 2020-21: 2.1%
 2019-20: 2.2%
 2018-19: 1.0%
 2017-18: 1.8%

AQUATICS

2023-24: 27.3%
 2022-23: 17.5%
 2021-22: 15.4%
 2020-21: 18.5%
 2019-20: 9.0%
 2018-19: 18.1%
 2017-18: 19.5%



SPECIAL EVENTS

2023-24: 8.3%
 2022-23: 11.1%
 2021-22: 5.3%
 2020-21: 0.9%
 2019-20: 8.9%
 2018-19: 6.3%
 2017-18: 5.3%

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

2023-24: 3.9%
 2022-23: 5.0%
 2021-22: 7.3%
 2020-21: 7.3%
 2019-20: 14.2%
 2018-19: 9.5%
 2017-18: 9.6%

YOUTH RECREATION

2023-24: 41.8%
 2022-23: 52.2%
 2021-22: 57.0%
 2020-21: 60.0%
 2019-20: 46.1%
 2018-19: 48.5%
 2017-18: 47.6%

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR	2023-24:	2022-23:	2021-22:	2020-21:	2019-20:	2018-19:	2017-18:
	6894	5134	4653	3456	3035	4909	4795



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YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2023 •
AUGUST 2024

PRESCHOOL: 118

Dassel 4/5 AM: 18
Dassel 4/5 PM: 19
Cokato 4/5 AM: 20
Cokato 4/5 PM: 18
EC Center 4/5: 8
EC Center 3/4: 16
EC Center 3/4: 13
EC Center 3/4 PM: 6

YOUTH ENRICH.: 270

Robotics Club: 50
Youth Theatre: 41
COR Robotics: 33
Arts & Crafts: 26
Art Studio: 24
Babysitting
Band Lessons
FIRST LEGO League
Home Alone Prep
Jazz Band
Pioneer Park Camp
RC Car Races
Sewing Beginners
Sustainable Make & Take
Tabletop Games

YOUTH SPECIAL EVENTS: 574

ECFE Events: 430
Friday Night Out: 144
Dive-In

ECFE: 123

Baby Play: 3
Coffee & Connect: 5
DC Kids: 25
Music/Movement: 16
Night Owls: 30
No Paintbrushes: 9
Pick a Topic: 17
Spring Book Bunch: 12
Toddler Time: 6

YOUTH REC.: 2881

Open Ice Skating: 507*
Football: 373
Gymnastics: 365
Basketball: 257
Hockey: 255
Archery
Baseball Clinics
Cheerleading
Firearms Safety
Golf
Hapkido
Ski & Board Club
Softball
Stength/Conditioning
T-ball
Track & Field
Volleyball
Wrestling
Yard Games

SCREENING: 138

3 year olds: 78
4 year olds: 44
5 year olds: 14
6 year olds: 2

ADULT ENRICH.: 113

Adult Trips: 25
Power of Greens: 19
Lake Ecology: 17
Make Ahead Meals: 16
AARP: 12
Cookie Decorating
Medicare
Instant Piano/Guitar
Health & Balance

AQUATICS: 1880

Swim Lessons: 707
Lap Swim: 564*
Open Swim: 251*
High Tides Swim: 172
Aquacise: 122*
Lifeguard Training
Private Lessons
Water Safety Instr.

ADULT REC.: 781

Adult Hockey: 554*
Open Ice Skating: 172*
Hallwalking: 39
Strength/Train Women: 16
Guided Nature Hike
Country Line Dancing

*Includes walk-ins & repeat users



.....**COMMUNITY EDUCATION** STAFF



ABBEY LANG
*Community Services
Director*



ANGELA SMITH
*Early Childhood
Coordinator*



JENNIFER TODNEM
*School Age Care
Coordinator*



KRISTA CATES
*Early Childhood
Secretary*



SHANNON SMIEJA
*Community Education
Secretary*



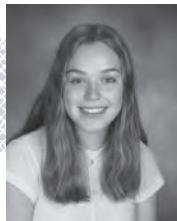
MARLEE CATES
*Charger Kids Club
Lead*



RACHEL ERICKSON
*Little Chargers
Assitant Lead*



RAELYNN GOTTSCHALK
*Charger Kids Club
Lead*



CLAIRE RAYMOND
*Charger Kids Club
Lead*



KENADI SERVATY
*Charger Kids Club
Lead*



MANDY SERVATY
*LCC/CKC
Assistant Lead*



ARIANA TARNING
*Little Chargers
Lead*



KATIE WUOLLET
*LCC Asst. Lead/
Charger Kids Club Lead*



WHITNEY WUOLLET
*Little Chargers
Assistant Lead*



KIM ORTLOFF
Pool Manager

MEET OUR **STAFF**



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EARLY CHILDHOOD STAFF



ANGIE CORRELL
*Special Education
Teacher*



HEIDI DOLLERSCHELL
*Preschool
Teacher*



BARB HARDER
*Speech & Language
Pathologist*



MARIA KILPELA
*Preschool
Teacher*



KATHY LUNDEEN
*Speech & Language
Pathologist*



DANIELLE OLMSCHIED
*Early Childhood
Teacher*



ANDREA NICHOLSON
*Parent
Educator*



KATIE QUAAS
*Preschool
Teacher*



TRACY RICKEMAN
*Special Education
Teacher*



BECKY BAATZ
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*



CHLOE BENSON
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*



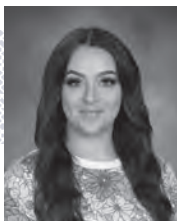
DANIELLE FRATZKE
*Early Childhood
Paraprofessional*



LISA GRACK
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*



CAITLYN KANGAS
*Early Childhood
Paraprofessional*



KELSI LARIOS
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*



LINDA NORDBERG
*Early Childhood
Paraprofessional*



SONJA OLSON
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*

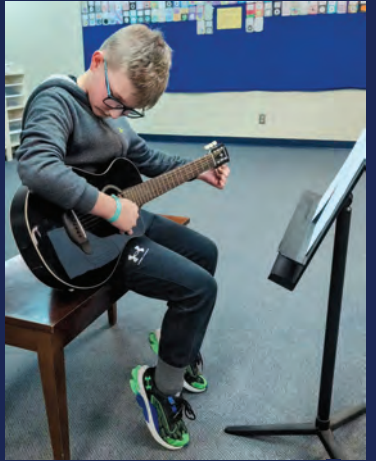


VICKY SAGER
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*



JESSICA TESCH
*Preschool
Paraprofessional*





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