



The Heart and Soul of Our After-school Care Program

At its core, PBS' After-school Care Program is more than just a space for students to spend their time after the final school bell rings. It's a thoughtfully crafted extension of their day, filled with learning, connection, and the cultivation of essential values. For the dedicated team behind this program, it's about building a safe and nurturing environment where students grow academically, socially, and emotionally—all while having fun.

Supporting the Whole Child

The After-school Care Program aligns closely with the school's core values. "Our goal is kindness and perseverance, and we achieve that while also having fun," explains Jason Nunez, the Director of Auxiliary Programs at PBS. Fun happens organically, but the team is intentional about creating structure and purpose in every aspect of the program.

The program offers students opportunities to practice resilience and kindness in a setting that complements the day's learning. The After-school Care Staff collaborates with ELC and K-5 teachers to ensure continuity of care and alignment with the school day, bridging academic and emotional support for each child.



Student Experience: Play, Creativity, and Connection

A typical day in After-school Care balances free play, structured activities, and moments of self-expression. The schedule begins with quiet reading or homework for older students and free play for younger ones, followed by a shared snack time. From there, students can rotate through a variety of engaging activities:

- Arts and Design: Offering creative stations for painting, origami, beading, and other hands-on projects.
- Sports and Movement: Encouraging physical activity through student-led games like balloon badminton, basketball, and more.
- Special Fridays: Featuring themed events on the first and third Fridays, including karaoke inspired by favorite songs and movies, and a talent showcase.

The program creates an environment where students are encouraged to lead and collaborate, whether by starting a podcast crew, practicing for a talent showcase, or mentoring peers during cross-grade play.

"After-school Care is one place where kids of all ages can come together and build relationships," Mr. Justin shares. "It's rare to see this kind of collaboration during the regular school day, but here, 4th-graders are asking kindergarteners questions and playing games. The mentorship and friendships formed are truly unique."



Building Resilience and Relationships

The After-school Care Team emphasizes how this program supports students' social-emotional growth. Cross-grade interactions foster empathy and mentorship, and activities centered on personal interests promote self-regulation and perseverance.

For children who spend extended days at school—from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm—the After-school Care Program provides a consistent, supportive environment. “Even students who initially struggled with the adjustment have developed stamina and confidence over time,” says Nina Smith, Auxiliary Programs Manager. Staff have observed children comforting peers, offering hugs, and rallying around those who may feel lonely—a testament to the nurturing, community-centered atmosphere the program creates.

Family and Community Partnerships

A significant focus of the After-school Care team is ensuring open communication with families and faculty. By maintaining close ties with teachers, the team can address each child's needs holistically and provide consistent support throughout the day. For example, when a student struggled to complete homework, the After-school Care team worked with their teacher to resolve the issue.

Mr. Jason notes that the program's alignment with the school day is critical to its success. However, he acknowledges a challenge: some parents may view After-school Care as unstructured “free time.” In reality, the team puts tremendous thought and care into crafting meaningful experiences, from introducing healthy snacks to designing activities that inspire creativity and collaboration.

Looking Ahead: A Vision for Growth

As the program evolves, the team remains committed to continuous improvement by gathering feedback, enhancing alignment with school curriculum, and expanding resources for older students. Rooted in the love and dedication of its staff, the After-school Care Program provides a space where students build resilience, form meaningful connections, and embrace values that transcend the classroom.

"The team and I feel lucky to be part of leading this program," Mr. Jason says. "We all bring different strengths, but we share one thing in common: we love our work, and we love these kids."



The After-school Care Team (L to R): Karen Wang, Justin Kim, Jason Nunez, Nina Smith, Pascale Modaresse, Shannon Petersen