

Dear Betty,

Thank you for welcoming me to your afterschool program on December 10, 2025. It was a pleasure to see your program in action and to learn more about the ways you're supporting students during out-of-school time. I always enjoy my visits to your programs.

During the observation at Milford, I learned that the students had been engaged all week in holiday themed activities as it was the last week of the program for the fall semester. Tim mentioned he surveyed the students about what holiday activities they would like to do in their final week in 2025 and he obliged. Well, all but one, swimming. The students had a fun time making paper snowballs and using them for the day's games. One young boy even enticed me into having fun!

During the visit, a few items were discussed and/or observed for further discussion and/or suggestion:

- Congratulations on the news of being able to keep Milford open. It is truly a positive reflection of the community's commitment to education that Milford is willing to step in and share some of the building costs.
- Tim maintains a strong and collaborative relationship with Principal, Phyllis Boller. This connection demonstrates that the program is truly a partnership, built on mutual respect and shared goals.
- Program attendance (ADA) is a key deliverable for 21st CCLC programs. The current ADA is between 25 and 26 students, which is approximately 85% of the proposed target of 30.
 - To help consistently meet the proposed ADA, consider registering more than 30 students. This would provide a buffer to account for absences and ensure the program maintains strong attendance numbers aligned with great expectations.
- The Walking Classroom – Patterson Family Foundation Grant
 - On the day of the visit (I call this perfect timing), an email was received from the Kansas representative for The Walking Classroom regarding free kits available through the Patterson Family Foundation for deserving Kansas schools and afterschool sites.
 - The connection is a wonderful opportunity, and I am excited to see how your students respond to and enjoy the curriculum. The grant not only provides valuable resources but also strengthens the program's ability to offer engaging, evidence-based enrichment activities.
- Kellogg's Nutra Net Grant – Current information is unavailable for this grant but when researching, the following resource was discovered and may be of benefit to your program for a nutrition and cooking club.
 - [Health Educator's Nutrition Toolkit: Setting the Table for Healthy Eating | FDA](#)

- Collaboration Opportunity with Clay County's afterschool program
 - An email connecting the Milford program with Clay County's program could spark a potential site tour to strengthen connections, share best practices, and identify areas for mutual support.
 - This introduction by Kansas Enrichment Network will help foster cross-county partnerships and broaden the program's network of resources and ideas.

Shared suggestions from previously visited sites are as follows:

- Incorporate a district-wide afterschool program training with topics in which front-line staff have shared questions or expressed concerns such as:
 - **Role, work hours, and workload clarification -**
 - Implement a shared calendar or shared document with grant specific deadlines and expectations for the following but not limited to: Program Director's Report, Quality Guidelines Assessment, External Evaluator's Report, Apr, KGMS, etc.
 - Adding ample staff hours in upcoming re-applications could ensure adequate time for preparation and reporting.
 - **Grant Deliverables and District Continuity** – by completing the attached “What’s in your Grant” document for each Geary County Grant, may afford program administration and front-line staff better understanding of the specific grants and deliverables.
 - Informing key staff of important grant deliverable information, deadlines and expectations.
 - Budget transparency is recommended to provide each site with clear budget forms showing what remains available, what has already been spent and the amount of carryover funds and guidance on which areas those funds can be spent aligning with district and federal protocols.
 - Programming should be aligned with the grant requirements, consider offering options to remain open during the last week of school before winter break as families and staff depend on the program.
- Boosting Moral and camaraderie for program staff during and outside of staff meetings
 - Create safe and open formats for staff to voice concerns, express new ideas, collaborate in resolutions, which all promotes staff collaboration.
 - Recognition fuels motivation: Staff who feel valued are most engaged and productive and this further strengthens trust and relationships.

The following links (some of which you may be aware of, and some may be new to you) are free web-based resources (which may require setting up an account) that may support your program's ongoing work:

- [Net Flex Kids](#) – offers many brain-break activities and ideas
- [Fun Brain](#) – grade level games for math, grammar, science, spelling, and history

- [Phonics and Stuff](#) – offers many grammar and literacy academic activities
- [Half-Pint Kids](#) – includes learning activities which cover the five essential elements of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension)
- [Mr. Nussbaum.com](#) – where fun meets learning in your classroom
- [Free Training Tutorial](#) – offers educators free high quality online activities for their kids and students (games, tutorials, lessons, tests and fun interactives)
- [Institute for Multi-Sensory Education](#)– IMSE’s mission is to empower districts, schools, teachers, and parents to be agents of change toward equitable literacy instruction for all learners that is driven by research
- [The Wonder of Science](#) – features teacher approved resources surrounding science and engineering
- [Chrome Music Lab](#) – resource to assist in learning music through fun, hands-on experiences
- [Scratch Garden](#) – educational videos for students, teachers and parents
- [Staffall](#) – students learn to read by emphasizing exploration, play and positive reinforcement.
- [ABC YA](#) – provides grade level academic games
- [Story On-Line](#) – read aloud books to boost reading skills
- [Story Nory](#) –free audio series for students, teachers and parents
- [Epic](#) – access to thousands of digital books for grades 8 and under

As always, please reference the [Program Director Resources](#) folder to find additional enrichment ideas. Resources will continue to be added throughout the year.

Below are a few 21st CCLC reminders for all current Kansas grantees:

- Include LOGO on newsletters
- Label all 21st CCLC property/materials
- For year 5 grantees, create or update an inventory list of all purchased items (non-consumables) as this information will be required for year-end reports.

Thank you again for your time and hospitality. We appreciate you and your program staff’s commitment to providing high-quality afterschool experiences for students and families. The contributions you and your team make are critical to the success of our collective 21st CCLC efforts. Please extend our appreciation to your staff for their commitment to your program.

Warm regards,

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