t.e.a.m.21

TEACH ENRICH ACHIEVE MOVE

Annual Report 2010-2011

City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation

Wyoming Public Schools

Godwin Heights Public Schools

Making a Difference in the Lives of Youth

Who We Are:

T.E.A.M. 21 is an after-school and summer program for elementary, intermediate and middle school-aged youth in the City of Wyoming. The program, a collaboration between the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools and Kelloggsville Public Schools, just completed its seventh year serving students in Wyoming. T.E.A.M. 21 is federally-funded through 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant funds, as allocated by the Michigan Department of Education.

What We Do:

T.E.A.M. 21 is committed to fostering **academic, social, and emotional growth** in students through **relationships and engaging activities.**

New and Notable This Year!

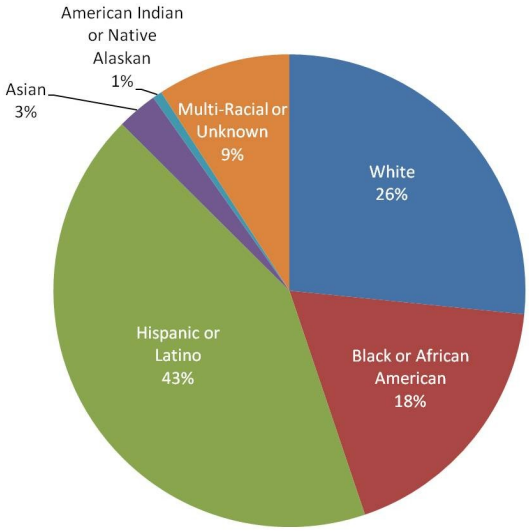
Literacy Initiative—Under the watchful guide of a team of literacy coaches, each of our sites went through the process of intentionally planning and integrating literacy-focused activities and lessons into their programming on a regular basis. While reading & literacy-based activities have always played a role in T.E.A.M. 21 programming, the approach this year was to not only build in specific times for activities that more directly develop and support reading and writing skills , but also to incorporate literacy elements into other types of enrichment and recreational activities. Examples of this range from reading recipes and writing reflections on cooking activities to researching and writing about the rules and history of a sport or game before playing it. These efforts have been quite successful, with many sites reporting an increased interest from students in traditional and non-traditional reading and writing activities.

Meeting the Needs of a Changing Community

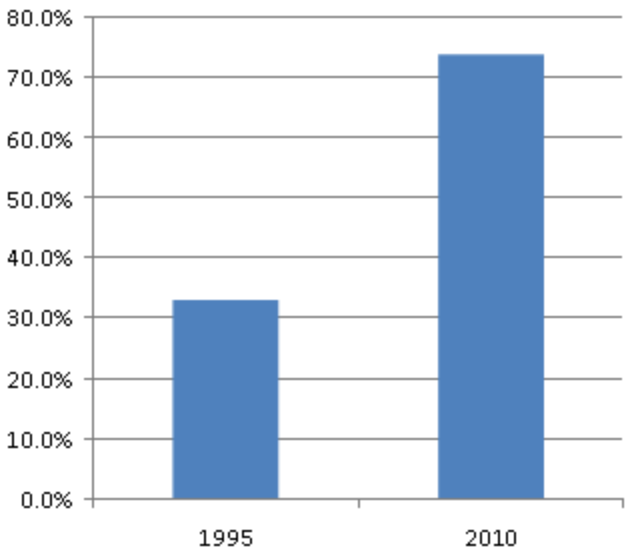
The Wyoming community has undergone a transformation in recent years, as the local, state and national economies have struggled, and the landscape of the automotive industry in the United States—an industry once responsible for the bulk of the jobs in this region—has changed dramatically.

In the last fifteen years, the free and reduced lunch rate in schools, a common measure of economic disadvantage, has jumped from just 33% of the student population to 74% across the 4 public school districts located in the City. At the same time, we have seen a significant change in the social and demographic make-up of our community, including an increase in the percentage of single parent households, families with two working parents, and an increase in minority populations. These social and economic factors have only increased the need for a safe and enriching program to engage students after the school day ends.

Student Demographics



Students Qualifying for Free & Reduced Lunch



*2009-10 data shown due to federal changes in race and ethnicity reporting

T.E.A.M. 21 is...

a place for Growth: "My son is a better person thanks to you!"-T.E.A.M. 21 Parent

Building Connections with the Community

Fostering Relationships with Parents & Families

Evaluation—Involving parents, guardians and family members in our program has always been a priority for T.E.A.M. 21. In recent years, we have established more formal processes for doing this, including involving at least one parent/guardian from each site in the Youth Program Quality Assessment, an annual self-assessment evaluation process performed each fall. This involvement has been an invaluable resource to our schools, as parents/guardians bring a different perspective to their observations of the program than that of T.E.A.M. 21 and school staff and administrators.

Fun Run—This past May marked the 2nd Annual T.E.A.M. 21 Fun Run, a family fitness event designed to encourage students and their families to set and reach fitness goals and learn to enjoy the many benefits of an active lifestyle. Each spring, students spend a couple of months during fitness time in T.E.A.M. 21 training for the running and field events, and are encouraged to take all they are learning home and share it with their families. Then, on the day of the event, parents/guardians and family members can choose to simply attend and cheer on the students or can take on the challenge of participating in the races and events themselves, testing their skill and fitness level. This year, we had nearly 300 students, family members, staff and school staff in attendance. It is a tremendous way for families and staff to support students in setting and reaching their fitness goals, and we are excited to see this event continue to grow in years to come.

Summer Learning Workshops—Because of a Summer Expansion Grant awarded to our program by the Michigan Department of Education, T.E.A.M. 21 was able to partner with a number of local organizations, businesses and individual instructors to offer a variety of workshops for parents, family and community members that included topics like Love and Logic, Nutrition in Action, Conversational English, First Aid at Home and Parent Reader Leaders. These workshops provided a wonderful opportunity for T.E.A.M. 21 to build new partnerships and connect with additional local organizations and businesses, in addition to providing a quality learning experience for parents and family members who attended.

Partnerships & Collaborations

T.E.A.M. 21 is fortunate to partner with many local businesses, organizations, churches and individuals who are critical to the program's success including, most notably, the following:

- American Red Cross
- Bounce Party
- Consumers Energy
- Family Outreach Center
- Girls Choral Academy
- Grand Rapids First Church
- Grand Valley State University
- Humane Society of West Michigan
- Kent County Health Department
- Kids Food Basket
- School-to-Career Progressions
- Tarry Hall Roller-Skating Rink
- Wedgwood Christian Services
- Wyoming Public Library
- Wyoming Fire Department
- Wyoming Police Department

T.E.A.M. 21 is...

a place for Discovery: "I thought I didn't like reading, but I actually like it when I'm at T.E.A.M.21. I used to not like it, but now I read a lot. I even read at home sometimes." T.E.A.M. 21 Student

Stories from Beyond the Bell

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SITES

East Kelloggsville Elementary

Several T.E.A.M. 21 sites have utilized overarching themes as a way to organize and tie activities together and create interdisciplinary learning opportunities. East Kelloggsville employed just such a theme, EXPLORE, for their school year program last year. During their EXPLORE activities, students went around the world, learning about various countries and cultures—a different one each week—through cooking, recreation, reading, arts and crafts and more. After making passports to track the countries they visited, students participated in activities like Jamaican bread-making, reading African folktales and fables, creating Egyptian bracelets, studying sea turtles while visiting Australia, creating maracas during Mexico week, painting Italian "Sistine Chapel" paintings on paper affixed above their heads, and participating in an English Tea Party, where they sampled tea and English snacks and reviewed manners and etiquette. In addition, students made murals highlighting what they'd learned about the countries they studied, made flags from many of the countries and cooked and tried foods from the cuisines of several countries.

Gladiola Elementary

Each October, T.E.A.M. 21 sites participate in a national after-school advocacy and awareness event called Lights On After-School. Each site holds a special community event, inviting parents, teachers, and stakeholders to visit their program and see T.E.A.M. 21 in action.

For Lights On 2010, Gladiola adopted a Candy Land theme. In the weeks leading up to the event, staff and students were hard at work creating candy-themed decorations for each of the event spaces and planning the activities for the day. Among the most popular activities were the cake walk, chocolate fountain and a station where students and their families got to create a healthy snack mix through completing math problems. It was a wonderful mix of healthy, sweet & fun!

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

A project of the Afterschool Alliance

Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center

Service learning is an approach to education that emphasizes the importance of community involvement, working as a team for a good cause, and making a difference for others. T.E.A.M. 21 at Godfrey-Lee ECC takes that type of learning seriously and has been able to successfully partner with a number of local organizations working to make an impact. Most notably, they collaborated with Kids Food Basket, a local organization founded to fight child hunger in our area, to help assemble and decorate lunch bags for students at other schools who receive these free meals on a daily basis. The students enthusiastically participate in these service projects, called *Kids Helping Kids*, and have a special connection with the initiative, since they themselves receive these bags at the end of program everyday.

Jackson Park Intermediate

It takes a lot to operate a quality after-school and summer program, and the students at Jackson Park wanted to make sure they had the chance to thank all of those working "behind the scenes" for the program that they enjoy daily. To that end, Jackson Park T.E.A.M. 21 students hosted their annual 'Thank-You' Luncheon and invited city officials, school administrators, bussing and custodial staff, program partners and many others to enjoy a student-prepared meal, slideshow and student performances. From greeters and servers to cooks and performers, the afternoon was student-planned and facilitated. The result was an event that incorporated opportunities for student planning, team-building, etiquette, cooking, nutrition, performance art, and of course, a lot of fun.

T.E.A.M. 21 is...

a place for Success: "I saw students succeed in areas that they did not have success in during the school year. This occurred in both academic and social settings. It was nice to see eyes light up when a student was successful and to witness kids who are normally very shy making friends."
- T.E.A.M. 21 Summer School Teacher

Stories from Beyond the Bell

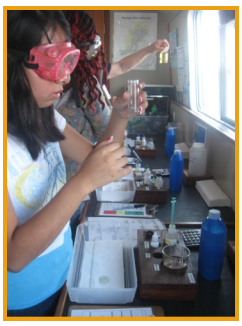
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SITES

Lee Middle

One general summary of the goals of after-school, K-12, and higher education is simply this: Ready by 21. Ready for college, work and life. T.E.A.M. 21 at Lee Middle addresses this goal by planning field trips and activities that show the variety of opportunities available to students after high school. One such activity was a partnership with Kent Career Technical Center, in which instructors volunteered their time to show the students the ins and outs of their particular field. Complementing this exposure to vocational training was a day-long trip to Grand Valley State University, where participants explored the campus through GVSU student-led tours, panel discussions, and field house fun. All of this was done in the context asking of students to think intentionally about their dreams, and the steps to take to achieve them.

Newhall Middle

In an effort to teach students more about the environment and their impact on it, Newhall's T.E.A.M. 21 program partnered with the City of Wyoming's Clean Water Plant and Grand Valley State University's ANNIS Water Resources Institute to educate students on the importance of water quality. Students learned how to use water quality test kits and discussed the factors that determine water quality. The group then took a field trip out onto the water, aboard one of the ANNIS research vessels, to learn about water quality and the ecosystems that effect it. The students, many of whom had never been on a boat, were captivated by the experience and were excited to explore a new field of study.



North Godwin Elementary

During their week themed "Michigan Week", third graders at North Godwin Elementary wrote letters to Governor Snyder about what it means to be a good citizen and shared ideas with him about how to improve our state. Students were excited at the opportunity to share their ideas with the Governor.

A few weeks later, each third grade student was thrilled to receive a response. The Governor's office sent a personalized letter to each student, specifically referencing his or her suggestions for ways to improve the state. This was a great opportunity for students to have their voices heard and understand the process and importance of civic engagement. It was an experience many students will not soon forget!

Parkview Elementary

One of the tenets of a great after-school program is that it allows students to dig into activities, learning and growing through hands-on, engaging opportunities, including S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Students at Parkview participated in a variety of these innovative, hands-on activities designed to pique their interest through disguised and not-so-disguised learning. Students learned concepts of engineering through a contest where they built weight-bearing bridges, studied the science of wild weather while building tornadoes in a bottle, learned geometric principles during a unit on tessellations, and studied the impact of volcanoes during a series of lessons on Pompeii, learning about the ancient city and its destruction under the power of Mount Vesuvius. In addition, students learned real-world applications of science when they participated in oil spill clean-up simulations shortly after the Gulf Oil Spill. S.T.E.M. activities are a great forum for reminding students that learning is fun.

West Elementary

One of the intended outcomes of after-school and summer programs like T.E.A.M. 21 is to expose students to new opportunities and develop in them new passions and interests. To this end, students at West Elementary had the unique experience of working with a local music production company to write, record and produce lyrics, creating a CD with a couple of original songs. Under the skilled tutelage of Brett Bielski, owner of Grand Rapids—based Intensity Entertainment, students experienced the entire artistic process of creating music, complete with a CD Release Party and their own copies of the CD to take home. This project challenged their creativity and writing ability, and gave each student an opportunity to shine, whether behind-the-scenes or at the microphone. It also provided a chance for students to work collaboratively, teaching them the value of teamwork and the benefits of shared experience.

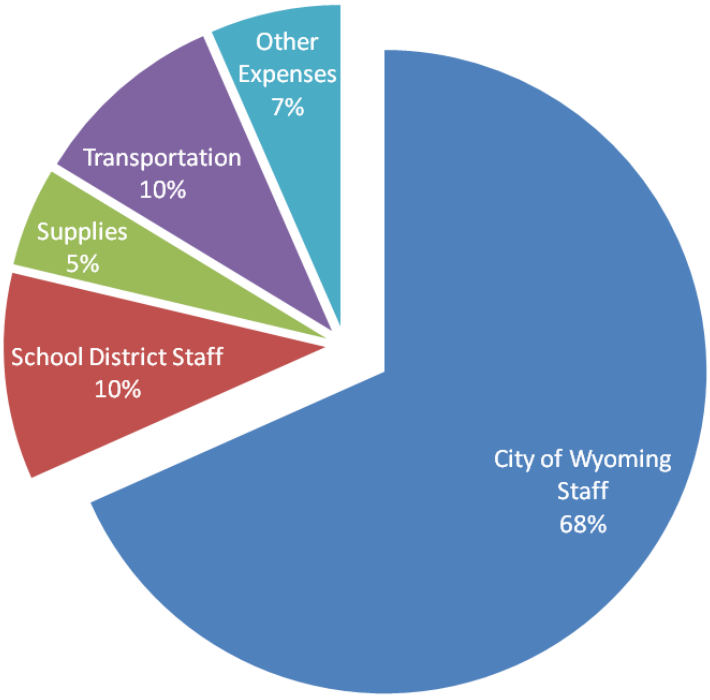
T.E.A.M. 21 is...

a place for Memories: **"T.E.A.M. 21 is the best thing that has ever happened to me." - T.E.A.M. 21 Student**

By the Numbers & In the News

Budget Overview

2010-2011 Expenditures



2010-2011 Funding By Grant

T.E.A.M. 21 Annual Operating Budget:
$1,345,930

Cohort D Grant (2007—2012):
$298,780

Cohort E Grant (2008—2013):
$747,739

Cohort F Grant (2009—2014):
$299,411

Attendance

Average Daily Attendance:

2010-2011 School Year—468 Students

2010 Summer—706 Students

Unique Students Served:

2010-2011 School Year & Summer—1,396 Students

Support

Volunteers—In 2010-2011, volunteers in the T.E.A.M. 21 program logged over 2,300 hours of service. Volunteers are a tremendous asset to our program.

In-Kind Contributions—Administrative partners, community partners and other individuals contributed a combined total of over $300,000 through in-kind support during the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Recent Awards & Recognition

The MASB Education Excellence Award, received in May of 2010, highlights the unique contribution that T.E.A.M. 21 has made specifically in its approach to academic improvement. T.E.A.M. 21 utilizes traditional academic support services like homework assistance and experiential learning activities, but also considers the whole child by helping students in the area of social-emotional growth, which often has a link to academic success.

The MML Regional Community Excellence Award, awarded in September 2009, recognized the efforts of T.E.A.M. 21 as a municipal program working to improve the lives of our residents through youth programming, specifically citing the role the program plays in breaking down cultural barriers.

Media Coverage

Recognizing the program's innovation and community impact, T.E.A.M. 21 has recently been featured in the following publications/websites:

Grand Rapids Family Magazine

The Grand Rapids Press

The Review, the official magazine of the Michigan Municipal League

The Southwest Advance

WZZM 13 News Website

Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network Newsletters

Thank You to Our Administrative Partners

Wyoming Public Schools

Kelloggsville Public Schools

Godwin Heights Public Schools

CITY OF WYOMING PARKS AND RECREATION

The T.E.A.M. 21 programs are made possible through a partnership between the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools, and Kelloggsville Public Schools. This partnership is funded through a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education, utilizing 21st Century Community Learning Center funds.