



FACES (Family, Academics, Community and Enrichment for Success) Afterschool Program

Serving Polk County

Overview

FACES began 9 years ago to address the many needs of students in the small, rural community. Fall City School District struggles to support a highly concentrated population of people in poverty, especially young people. The community relies on FACES to provide healthy meals and support and enrich the lives of students. Parents of FACES participants feel secure knowing their children are well cared for during after school hours. Without FACES, more than half of students would be unsupervised, unfed and potentially participating in risky behaviors during out of school hours.

FACES operates every school day after school during the school year. Schools in the district operate 4 days per week, so programming is also provided on no-school Fridays in the form of field trips and on-site enrichment. In collaboration with community partners, the program aims to engage youth in academic and enrichment opportunities that foster self-confidence, determination, a joy of learning, and a sense of community. High school students are paid to work in the program as leaders in groups at the elementary school. Students employed by FACES can graduate with up to three years of job experience, meaningful job skills as well as letters of recommendation without ever having to leave the isolated community. FACES High School Employees have a higher graduation rate than their peers – 93%.

Mission and Vision

The mission is two-fold. First, the Falls City School District provides well-rounded opportunities for students to become productive, positive citizens and life-long learners.

To support the district's mission, FACES developed its mission as follows: To provide math and literacy skill development, enrichment opportunities, and family support to Falls City K-12 students through collaborative partnerships between community organizations and Falls City School District.

Together, safe and fun opportunities are cultivated that empower community members to nourish a healthy, sustainable lifestyle that honors their unique abilities and interests.

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Program Details

When operating at full funding, FACES takes students on 20 field trips per year to places like colleges/ universities, museums, the zoo, plays, and more.

Enrichment courses introduce students to a variety of skills, careers, and experiences that encourage life-long learning, a healthy lifestyle, and career exploration. These include mixed martial arts, stop motion animation, sewing, cooking/baking, robotics, coding, mine craft, and STEM.

Promising Practices

- Free to students and families
- 9 years of academic, nutritional, and mental health support in a safe harbor
- FACES provides a safe harbor plus academic and enrichment support for 56% of students in Falls City School District. The national average for after school programs in concentrated poverty areas is approximately 25%.
- 72% of the district's families are eligible for free or reduced lunch. To meet the nutritional needs of these students and families, FACES provides a free afternoon supper.
- 2-3 Family Nights per year that include:
 - Sharing a meal
 - Exploring math and reading literacy
 - Providing resources and support for families to help their children achieve success in school
 - Parents have the opportunity to be in the school setting for positive reasons and get comfortable with the school atmosphere and employees.
- More than most other programs, the staff is consistent throughout the year and from year-to-year. Children build trust and bonds with consistent staff.
- Many of the staff also work during the school day which makes it easier for them to provide academic support for students in afterschool hours. Staff regularly communicate with school day teachers to best provide academic support for students after school.
- Music and art opportunities
- Integrated STEM learning



For more information, visit
www.4j.lane.edu/instruction/best
or contact Amy Houghtaling, Program Director at
amy.houghtaling@fallscityschools.org

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