McMinnville, Oregon is in the heart of the Willamette Valley and only 35 miles from Portland. It is the County seat and one of the largest cities in Yamhill County with just over 33,000 residents. It is home to two colleges. The McMinnville School District has 6 elementary schools with 3,021 students, 2 middle schools (6-8) with 1,545 students, and 1 high school with 2,072 students. In 2013-14 the district had 12.6% of students classified as Special Education students and 14.2% of students classified as English Language Learners. In 2015-16, 51.3% of students in the district qualified for the Free and Reduced Lunch program.

The Kids on the Block After-School Enrichment Program (KOB) was established in 1988 in three elementary schools and now operates in all six McMinnville elementary schools. The afterschool program is a collaboration between the McMinnville School District, the City of McMinnville Parks & Recreation Department, and the KOB Inc. Foundation. Currently programs work with roughly 400 students.

Each day, KOB commences with a healthy snack and 30 minutes of Homework Help and Reading Time. Kids then get to rotate through three 30-minute stations: Creation Station (arts, crafts, writing, drama, music), Fit Zone (sports, games, healthy lifestyle skills), and STEM & Strategy (science, technology, engineering, math, and group problem-solving activities).

In addition to providing academic support the program has an extensive enrichment program based on student interest. Enrichment offerings include outdoor school, science activities, visual arts, recreation, and may include school district staff or community members. 2016-17 guests include naturalists, storytellers, musicians, artists, community businesses and leaders, cheerleaders, and athletes. OMSI, the Oregon Zoo, AC Gilbert Discovery Village, and Evergreen Aviation Museum are a few presenters. Students return are on their way home by 5:30 by bus, foot, or parent/guardian pick-up.
Promising Practices

- Community collaboration has been a key factor in the sustainability of the programs. To date the community has raised over $1.5 million through the annual Mayor’s Charity Ball.
- Credit for success is given to the ongoing community commitment to youth and families.
- There is a seamless transition from school to afterschool since the programs take place at the school the child attends.
- Data-driven academic interventions staffed by highly qualified teaching staff are offered 30 weeks each year to improve student achievement.
- Transportation is provided for students at the end of programming each day for those students that do not walk home or are not picked up by parents.
- Summer Performer Programs are scheduled on Wednesdays at 2:00 throughout the summer to prevent summer reading loss and give kids a safe and engaging place to go during the summer months. Programs are held at McMinnville Community Center, 600 NE Evans Street. It is free and open to all ages.
- School volunteers and community members in an effort to prevent summer reading loss created opportunities for students to have access to a comprehensive selection of books when school is not in session.

For more information, visit http://www.mcminnvillekob.org/ and http://www.mcminnvilleoregon.gov/library/page/summer-reading-performance

* This information presented in partnership with OregonASK