

(4/2/25 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

On many days, before most others arrive at school, Jennifer Moore-Kerr (Ms. Jen) is turning on the lights and getting ready for students to enter our “Before School” program. And often, as the final folks leave the campus at the end of the day, it is the staff from our “After School” program that turn out the lights.

As stated in the name, the River Valley School District Before and After School Care Program offers supervised activities to kids before and after school. We have a variety of planned activities, both inside and outside, that encourage various learning modes, ranging from creative thinking and exploration to listening and peer relations. These indoor and outdoor activities also increase our students’ physical activity, skill level, and exposure to nature.

The program time is divided into outdoor play, snack, quiet reading, and indoor activities (with special note that there are no screen-time activities). Through it all, our kids receive supervised care from a variety of workers ranging from River Valley High School students to local retirees. Maybe you recognize some of these names:

Employees: Shawna Fromfeld, Jazmine Gauger*, Hannah Gunter, Judy Felsenthal, Linnea Jacobson*, Ewa Bailey, Hannah Fromfeld*, Dave Van Hallgren*, Kallan Jacobson*, Brielle Grant*, Josie Mahoney* and Jen Moore-Kerr

Volunteers: Susan Janotta, Barbara Mott, Kim Cates, Rowie Symon-Roske, Lilly Bowar*, Jean Alt, Leah Spicer, and Grace McDougal (* indicates a high school student)

More than anything, Ms. Jen and her staff strive for every child to feel safe and welcome in the Before and After School Care Program. This program provides a creative yet structured safe zone for kids. Ultimately, the River Valley School District strives to help children learn, grow, and reach their full potential, and the Before and After School Care Program is another way to do that. Research shows that spending time in after school programs often leads to better school attendance, better grades and a higher probability to graduate (afterschoolalliance.org/policyFederal.cfm).

We want to shine a light on this work and the great folks that help to make this River Valley program successful!

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District