

Early childhood education

Ronnell: We like to read. We have fun and we eat

Shuarod: We just read and talk about sports and everything

Mattheu: That is fun and I love reading

Principal Churn: Our major goals: We need to have every child on grade level by the end of the school year and we are using the “**100 book challenge initiative**” we’re using strategies from ‘Project GRAD’, which include our disciplines components which have the children stay on task, it also includes a math component, called “move it, math” and with all of those components and support from ‘Project GRAD’, we are able to see many of our students move towards then on grade level, but no more than a year behind.

My name is Ari Campbell, and I am a literacy coach for ‘Project GRAD. I work in Schumacher and Erie Island schools. The greedy goals for Project GRAD are to raise the scores in those schools at least 5%. Boys Club, we were going to have this in another building, and what happened was we couldn’t find the time, or the people that we needed in order to pull it off, so we decided to do that here in Schumacher and we are doing it in the afternoon using Kent State students to help with that.

The Kent State students are working in several classrooms and they participate in all of the responsibilities at the regular classroom teachers are engaged in.

Katie Harscine: The planning element Boys Club basically what happened was, Project GRAD kind of approached us and asked us to kind of take over and come in and work with them on it. And so

we just continued talking to them and put it together as best we could and ended up actually running the group.

Erin Duffy: Another big component in launching the boys club, was talking to the parents and the way we communicated with the families was through a communication tool, a written document that we sent home. And that really allowed us to get a lot of great input from the families as far as what the boys would be interested in reading about, what the families expectations were for the club and how they would like to see their child benefit and grow from the experience.

Ari Campbell: We did go out the other day and look at Borders. And Borders has some books like Superman and Spiderman and all those that boys would be interested in.

Erin Duffy: The date at the high school male role models came was a big turning point for this experience and it became more of social action that day in sense that it involved the community at the school; it involved educating the boys as well as the families. The families I believe they were able to take away some helpful tips just seeing someone if they don't have an older child, maybe seeing someone who has been through the school system and came out successful as a senior in the district.

Mattheu: some high schools, Buchtel High School came to our school

Ronnell: I liked it. They told us to get education and go get ready

Darell: they talked about themselves, and go to school and sports

Shuarod: and they talk about getting education and lot of stuff

Mattheu: that you need somebody to go to college sometimes

Shuarod: because you can go to college, you can get anywhere if you get education, you can get a job or something

Darell: there was a lot stuff to do there and go to college

Ronnell: you could go to college, you could get education and you could get to college and they pay you away

Katie Harscine: We've seen the boy's excitement over the ultimate boy's club and every week they're like "oh, we're going to have the ultimate boy's club" so it is really exciting that they are so excited about it and they really like it. My concern is that it is not going to stay, they are not going to keep doing it after we leave because they don't have the people to run it, they don't have the people to help out, and they just don't have the time. Most of the teachers, the second grade teachers are already stretched for time, they're running around all the time. So they don't have the time to do it. And the Project GRAD, the people that presented to us are busy also. So, it is just a concern that it is just not going to keep going.

Ari Campbell: Project GRAD is a wonderful program. I just wished that we could get it out to the Parents, get the news out to the parents, so that they realize what kind of program this is, so that we could get more parental involvement, and we can get more cooperation from the parents. We've had several programs, and I think they've been wonderful programs but we just need to reach more people.

Katie Harscine: I would say this shaped me just in really seeing how easy it is to do it almost, not that it is an easy process, the elements are in place, it's just taking a hold of them and putting them together into what you want to do. It's so rewarding to see the

excitement on the boy's faces for doing something like this, and that they're really excited about it.

Erin Duffy: What we need most is staff; we just need people to be there to run the club. The building is there short staffed in the sense that the teachers are wearing many hats, they are doing all different responsibilities, and kind of being pulled in different directions during that lunch hour, so we really would like to see families become involved and also just anyone in the school that would be able to help continue.

Ronnell: She is a nice person. She helps us read, when we don't know she helps us out a lot.

Shuarod: Yeah, she is a good teacher and she teaches us a lot.

Mattheu: Sometimes they talk and help us understand the book.

Mathheu: My mom, my dad, sometimes my teacher.