



2025 COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

EXPANDING ENRICHMENT & EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, July 23 | 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Presenters:

Tammy Rader, Elk Valley Community School Director

Katrina Byrd, Strong Vincent Community School Director

Tami Krzeszewski-Conway, Edison Community School Director





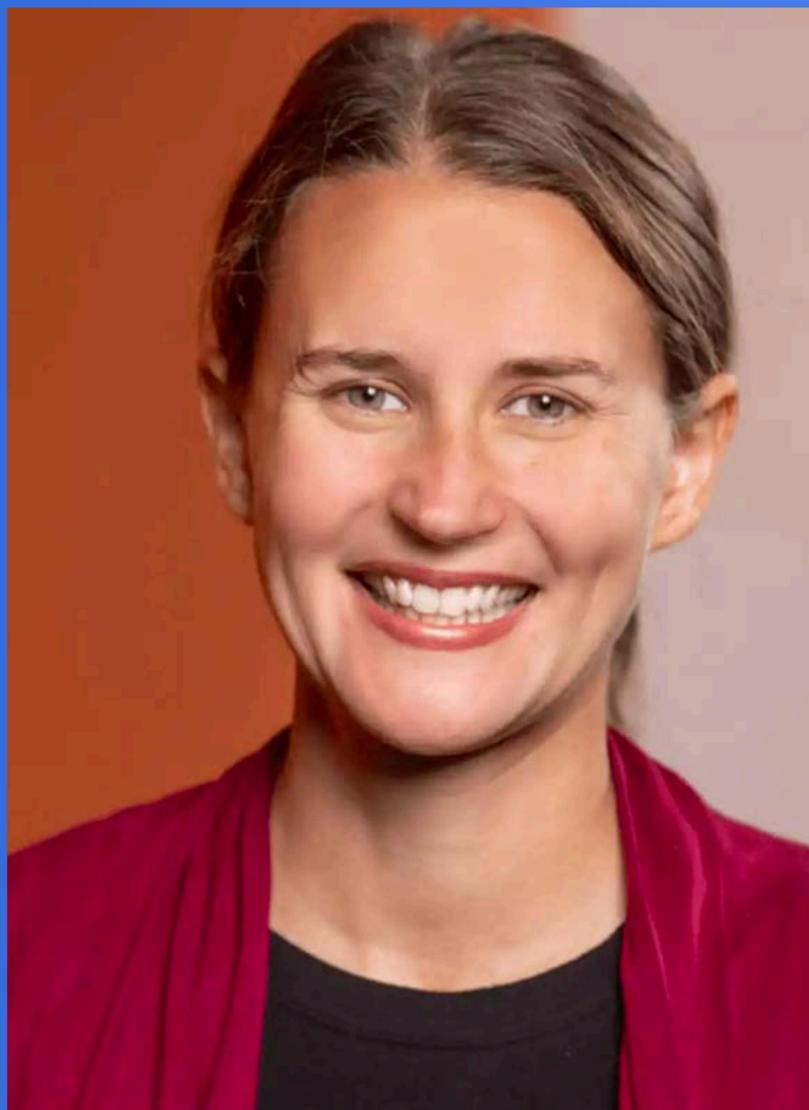
Tammy Rader

**Community School Director
Elk Valley Elementary**



Katrina Byrd

**Community School Director
Strong Vincent Middle**



Tami Krzeszewski-Conway

**Community School Director
Edison Elementary**

Pillar 2: Expanding Enrichment and Extracurricular Opportunities

- Provides opportunities for students to engage in a variety of activities outside of school hours while connecting with caring adults and other students.
- These programs keep students engaged in learning while expanding their interests.



ELK VALLEY ELEMENTARY

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Tammy Rader
Elk Valley Community School Director



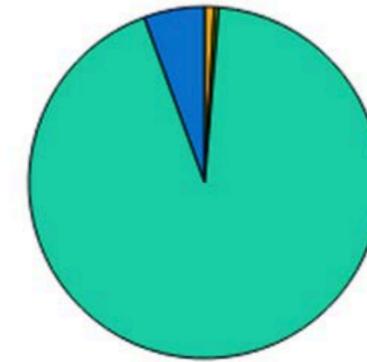
Elk Valley Elementary

Total Student Enrollment: **553**

Percent Enrollment by Student Groups

Economically Disadvantaged	62.6%
English Language Learner	0.7%
Special Education	15.9%
Foster Care	NA
Homeless	2.0%
Military Connected	1.8%

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.0%
Black	0.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Hispanic	0.4%
White	93.1%
2 or More Races	5.6%



After-School Programming

- Offer at least 9 programs per quarter
- Programs run for one hour each week over a 5 week period
 - Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
- 1st - 4th Grade



Adapted Programming

- Designed specifically for our special education students
- Smaller group sizes
- More adult support



Program Examples:

- Arts and Crafts
- Cake Decorating
- Outdoor Adventures
- Music Program
- Nature Club



Student Voice & Choice

Focus Groups with Grades 2-3

- Academics
- Arts
- Athletic
- STEM



Communicate top 5 desired programs from each category with potential facilitators



Programming Logistics

Who Facilitates After-School Programming?

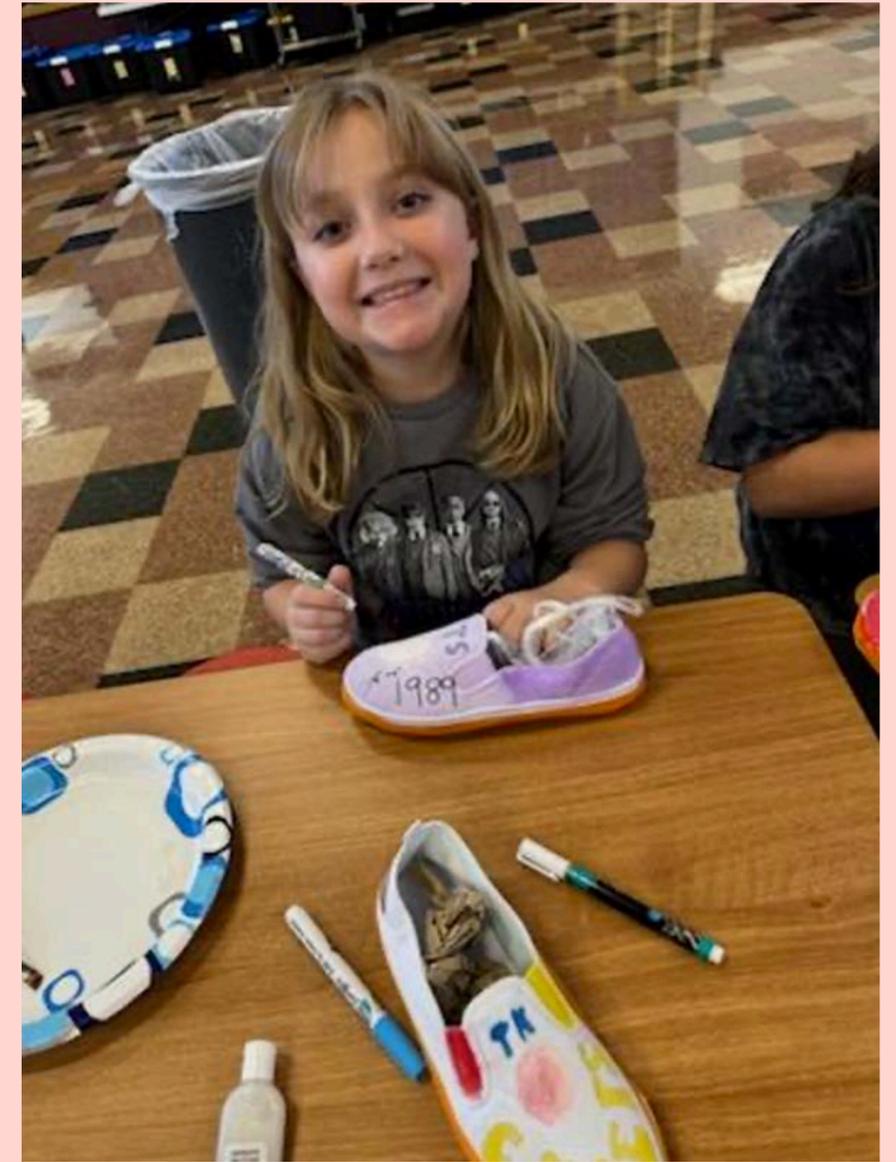


Elk Valley Faculty and Staff | Community Partners



Community Partnerships

- Matrix Tool, INC.
- Asbury Woods
- Erie Arts and Culture
- Common Threads
- Lund Martial Arts



Funding

- Part-Time Community School Coordinator
- Faculty/Staff “Subcontractors”
- Adapted/Off-Site Subcontractors
- Programming Supplies
- Snacks/Drinks
- Community Partners



Programming Framework

- Facilitator Sign-Up Sheet
- Subcontractor/Partnership Agreements
- After School Program Registration Form
- ASP Facilitator Guide
- Volunteers



Communication

- Parents
- Office Staff
- Teachers



Popular After-School Programming

- Fishing
- Clay Club
- Extra Gym
- Cupcake Decorating
- Lego Club
- Arts & Crafts
- Small Bites
- School Store
- Swimming



Programming Data

- Surveys
 - Student
 - Parent/Guardian
 - Facilitator
- Duplicated and Unduplicated Student Enrollment
 - 2023-2024 SY - 220 unduplicated (417 duplicated)
 - 2024-2025 SY - 191 unduplicated (416 duplicated)



Why focus on after-school programming?

- Fosters meaningful relationships
- Introduces new experiences and activities
- Provides opportunities students may not otherwise have access to
- Supports social-emotional growth
- Encourages healthy habits
- Reinforces academic learning
- Gives students a sense of ownership and pride
- Increases student engagement and school attendance



Resources

- Facilitator Sign-Up Sheet
- ASP Facilitator Guide

scan to access!



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Katrina Byrd
Strong Vincent Community School Director



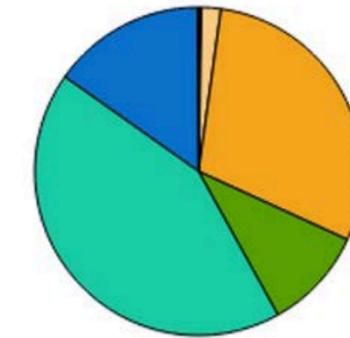
Strong Vincent Middle School

Total Student Enrollment: 666

Percent Enrollment by Student Groups

Economically Disadvantaged	86.8%
English Language Learner	3.7%
Special Education	28.1%
Foster Care	NA
Homeless	3.6%
Military Connected	0.0%

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.3%
Asian	1.9%
Black	29.6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Hispanic	10.1%
White	42.8%
2 or More Races	15.1%



How Did We Know After-School Programming Was Needed?

When we launched the Community School Model in 2017, we wasted no time. We listened to students, families, and teachers. The message was clear: our students needed more opportunities to explore their interests, build new skills, and stay engaged in a safe, supportive environment after school.

To identify our top priorities we gathered input from parents and students through:

- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Informal Lunch Period Chats
- Thus “Lightning Programs” were created!



What Are Lightning Clubs?

- Short-term clubs that run for 4 weeks
- Meet once a week
- Each session lasts 90 minutes
- Perfect for students who want to try something new without a long commitment!



Lightning Clubs 2024-2025

Funded by United Way of Erie County

- Music
- Photography
- Painting/Sketching
- Knitting & Looming
- Computer Animation (Student Lead)
- Movie Club
- Jewelry Making with Beads
- Pickleball
- Baking
- Basketball (Saturdays for at-risk boys)
- Volleyball
- Garden
- Chess
- Club STRONG
- Music and Movement (Autistic Support Classes)
- AI For Good
- Cooking



Career Readiness

Erie High School offers 18 career and technical education programs, known as CTE. These programs prepare students for college, careers, industry certificates, and state credentials that allow students to pursue multiple pathways after graduation.



Erie High School

Career and Technical Educational Programs

- Auto Body Technician
- Auto Mechanics Technology*
- Childcare and Support Services
- Criminal Justice*
- Computer Programming*
- Construction Trades*
- Cosmetology*
- Culinary Arts*
- Pre-Engineering
- Digital Media*
- Machine Trades
- Medical Assistant
- Sports Medicine/Rehab Aide
- Welding
- Horticulture/Landscaping*
- Marketing
- Nursing Assistant*
- Protective Services*



GO TRADE

Gaining Opportunity in Trade

Purpose:

- To introduce middle school students to the various CTE programs at Erie High.
- Provide students with the opportunity to explore hands-on interactive engaging GO Trade clubs with volunteers from the CTE industries.
- Clubs typical run once a week, 90 minutes, for 4 weeks.
- All of our CTE programs are facilitated by community volunteers.

GO Trade After-School Programs

- Nursing
- Construction
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Criminal Justice
- Auto Mechanics
- Computer Programming
- Digital Media
- Horticulture/Landscaping
- Protective Service



How Do We Find Our Amazing GO Trade Volunteers?

First, we developed a 1–2 minute elevator pitch to clearly communicate our mission and goals. Then, we hit the ground running through:

- Cold calling local businesses and organizations
- Email outreach with a direct link to the United Way website embedded for easy access
- In-person visits — we popped in with a huge smile, a firm handshake, and Community School literature in hand 😊

During our outreach, we made sure to highlight what volunteers would gain from the experience:

- The joy of sharing their talents and passions with curious, developing minds
- That unforgettable “warm, fuzzy feeling” of giving back
- The powerful reminder that they’re making a real difference in the lives of local children



How Do We Inspire Volunteers to Get On Board?

- The “Lightning Club” Model/Pitch
- Short-term clubs that run for 4 weeks
- Meet once a week
- Each session lasts 90 minutes
- Perfect for students who want to try something new without a long commitment!



Community Volunteer Partners

- Elizabeth A. Hirz, Erie County District Attorney – Criminal Justice
- Michael Harrel, President, Harrell Automotive, LLC. – Automotive (funded the program)
- Matt Hodinko, President, Building Systems, Inc. – Construction (funded the program)
- Sallie Piazza, Chief Nursing Officer, Allegheny Health Network – Nursing
- Instructor, Tony and Guy Hairdressing Academy – Cosmetology
- First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant – Culinary Arts (funded the program)
- Karen Thomas, President, Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro - Culinary Arts



Community Volunteer Partners

- Protective Services:

- Erie Police Department
- Adult Parole
- Juvenile Probation
- Erie Fire Department & Fire Truck
- Emergency Medical Services & Ambulance

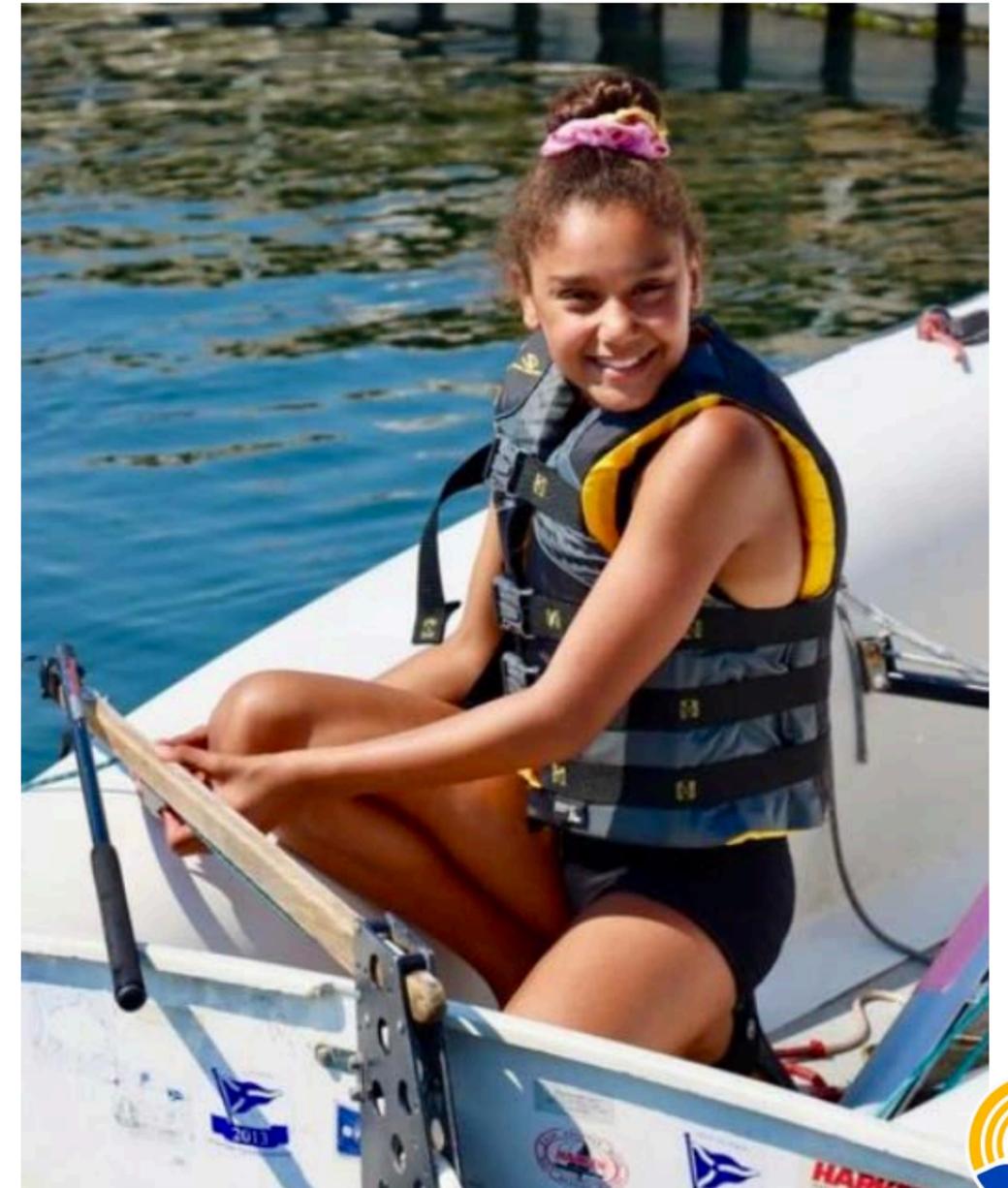


After-School Programming Impact

- 190 students engaged in after-school enrichment
- 257 volunteers contributed 532 volunteer hours
 - In-kind donation value: \$15,960



ERIE YACHT CLUB



RESOURCES

After-School Club
Survey Link



After-School Club
Survey Link



Organization/Business
Volunteer Link



EXPLORERS' CLUB AND FAMILY FIELD TRIPS

Tami Krzeszewski-Conway, LSW
Edison Community School Director



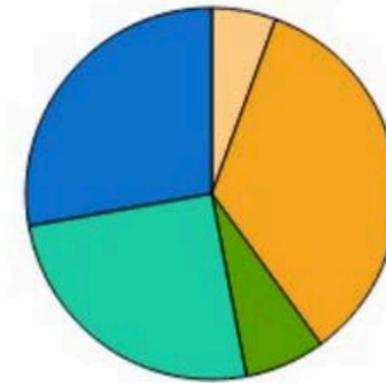
Edison Elementary

Total Student Enrollment: 428

Percent Enrollment by Student Groups

Economically Disadvantaged	97.0%
English Language Learner	14.0%
Special Education	16.1%
Foster Care	NA
Homeless	5.6%
Military Connected	0.0%

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	5.6%
Black	34.4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Hispanic	7.0%
White	25.2%
2 or More Races	27.8%



Listening & Honoring Feedback

- If we ask – we need to be willing to work towards doing things differently
- Creatively partnering
- Working smarter



EXPLORERS' CLUB

- Based on our after-school enrichment structure of six sessions
- Visited various outings throughout the Erie community
- Family event allows the whole family to participate
- Emphasis on building relationships within and among families
- Collect feedback from families and make adjustments where needed



FUNDING

- Braided Funding Model
- Three primary sources
 - United Way Impact Investment Funding
 - Grants
 - Fundraisers



CREATE THE FRAMEWORK



- Identify possible funding streams
- Set a schedule
- Determine outings based on funding
- Identify partners willing to support
- Secure transportation
- Share out opportunity with families
- Register families
- Confirm with families via personal conversations
- Set up reminders
- HAVE FUN



EXPLORERS' CLUB OVER THE YEARS

- 5 years
- 25 outings
- 24 community partners engaged
- 68 families engaged
- 65 hours of family fun and learning



EXPLORERS' CLUB OUTINGS

- Mercyhurst University
- Fairfield Fire Hall
- Apple Fest at Camp Sherwin
- Tumblemania
- Yahn Planetarium at Penn State Behrend
- Presque Isle Skating
- Playport Arcade & Family Fun Center
- Greengarden Lanes Bowling
- Eastside YMCA
- Wabtec
- Double Dab Ranch
- Fuhrman's Cider Mill
- Presque Isle Lighthouse & Coast Guard Station
- Asbury Woods & Trout Run
- Beachview Acres & Lakeside Estates
- Luke Farm & Vineyard
- Sissons' Pumpkin Patch
- Wintergreen Gorge
- Lady Kate Boat Tour
- Presque Isle & Tom Ridge Environmental Center



FAMILY FIELD TRIPS



Benefits

- Providing opportunity and access for families to have experiences together in their community
- Strengthen relationships within families and among families
- Ignite curiosities and passion
- Increase trust and rapport with the school

Lessons Learned

- Provide transportation and food, if possible
- Complete confirmation outreach
- Set up reminder systems
- Plan for about 25-35% not to attend



WHY WE COMMIT TO THIS WORK

- Increasing access and opportunities to expanded learning and extra-curricular activities
- Centering student and family voice
- Intervening to increase equity



RESOURCES

[Explorers' Club
Registration Form](#)



[Explorers' Club Q1
Flyer Example](#)





2025 COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Q&A

SCAN FOR RESOURCES



THANK YOU!

#CommunitySchoolsInAction



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@unitedwayerie

