

AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY

William Pinderhughes Elementary Baltimore, Maryland

One of the best practices at our school is the After School Academy. The After School Academy has its own principal; however, it is coordinated with the elementary school. In addition, the principal of the After School Academy is a member of the elementary school's Action Team.

The goals of the After School Academy focus on increasing Maryland State Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) scores and preparing students with the skills necessary to succeed in middle and high schools, and the approaching millennium. The goals are MSPAP driven and support our school improvement plan. Our emphasis is on intensive additional instruction in reading and math for grades Pre-K through 5. We want to enhance performance, and hopefully decrease behavior problems.

The strategies and activities we choose for our after school programs are based on data from the Standardized Individual Test, Wide-Range Achievement Test, MSPAP, and CTBS. One member of the After School Academy is responsible for curriculum and instruction. She chooses activities based on skill deficiencies indicated in the test data.

Parents and students take part in our Pentium and Jostens Computer Lab in order to become computer literate for the year 2000. We communicate with families about school programs and student progress (Type 2 involvement). We involve families as volunteers to support their students and all school programs (Type 3 involvement). Tuesdays through Thursdays from 2:30 – 4:30 are intensive instructional days. Certified teachers in small group settings and parents reinforce MSPAP driven skills. Fridays focus on cultural and enrichment activities when parents express their talents with arts & crafts, music, dance, and poetry.

There are 135 students, 9 teachers, 3 aides, 3 student volunteers, 10 parent volunteers, 2 computer aides, 2 crossing guards, 1 parent outreach worker, 1 curriculum coordinator, and 1 custodian that help this program run effectively.

Since October 1997, The Enterprise Foundation and Baltimore City have graciously funded our After School Academy and will be available for support in the next school year. Most of the funds support salaries for the staff. Some of the challenges we faced included program implementation issues and involvement of families.

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