



# McMinnoille Afterschool Programs

OREGON

## Program Overview

McMinnoille, 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 32,000 residents. It is home to two colleges. The McMinnoille School District has 6 elementary schools with 3,035 students, 2 middle schools (6-8) with 1,505 students, and 2 high schools (McMinnoille High School and the Media Arts and Communication Academy) with 2,028 students. In 2009 the district had 12% of students classified as Special Education students, 17% of students classified as English Language Learners, 92 students or 1.4% of the student population classified as homeless and 54.4% of students in the district qualified for free and reduced lunch.

The Kids on the Block After-School Enrichment Program, which was established in 1989, began in three elementary schools, and is now in its 21st year of providing afterschool programming in McMinnoille. It is a collaborative program operated through a partnership with the McMinnoille School District and the City of McMinnoille Parks & Recreation Department. Currently programs exist in 6 elementary schools with over 900 students. The District also has two 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, a secondary level grant in its 5th and final year and an elementary grant in its 2nd year.

The first hour of the Kids on the Block afterschool program from 2:30 – 3:30 Monday through Thursday is called Power Hour and is staffed mostly by regular school day teachers who provide academic support to struggling students in Math, Reading and Writing as well as homework support, recognizing that many children won't have homework support once they get home.

For the remaining time, from 3:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday, and from 2:30-5:30 on Friday, the McMinnoille Parks and Recreation Department administers enrichment programs. Each site has an adult leader who is responsible to plan and staff the last two hours of the day. 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, technology and recreation and may include school district staff or community members. Students stay in 'pods' and snacks are delivered to them. Students return home by 5:30 by bus, on foot, or by parent pick-up.

**Fast Facts:**

- The Kids on the Block After-School Enrichment Program and Power Hour provide services to over 900 children in grades 1-5 in McMinnville School District's six elementary schools
- 54% of students in the school district qualify for free or reduced lunch
- Afterschool program funding is provided by the City of McMinnville, McMinnville School District, nonprofit foundation Kids on the Block, Inc., 21st CCLC grants and user fees.
- Power Hour, which is staffed by McMinnville school district staff members, provides approximately 110 hours each year of individualized academic interventions in Math, Reading and Writing as well as assisting students with their daily homework assignments
- Middle School students (6-8) have access to homework help afterschool from Monday through Thursday as well as enrichment clubs and bus transportation home
- McMinnville High School's Afterschool program also provides homework assistance, enrichment activities and bus transportation home

**Promising Practices**

- Community collaboration has been a key factor in the sustainability of the programs. Major partners in McMinnville are the city, the school district, the nonprofit Kids on the Block, Inc. and several local businesses. To date the community has raised over \$1.1 million through the annual Mayor's Ball and they credit their success to the ongoing community commitment to youth and families
- There is a seamless transition from school to after school since the programs take place in 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
- 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. In the summer of 2009 more than 100 students from the Buel Elementary School Neighborhood kept up their reading skills by visiting the school library every Thursday afternoon. The library was staffed by school volunteers and community members who passed out snacks, checked out books, oversaw arts and crafts activities and gave away books and prizes to readers which had been donated by local businesses

**Kathy Kollasch**

Afterschool Program Coordinator  
McMinnville School District  
503-565-4891  
503-435-9477