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## Indiana grant of \$225K to start up free after-school program

Kids and parents to benefit at Roosevelt, Pierre Moran

By Joseph Dits South Bend Tribune Jan 1, 2017



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ELKHART — A free after-school program for kids and parents will start up next fall at Roosevelt STEAM Academy and Pierre Moran Middle School, thanks to a \$225,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Education.

Details of the program are still in the works, but it will bring fun activities that boost academics, literacy and other skills for up about 200 students from both schools, along with adult-education classes for their parents, said Tonda Hines, the program's new director.

It is the only outside financing for the new program, said Hines, who has served as a parent and community liaison in Elkhart Community Schools until now.

And a state grant of \$200,000 will go to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County to continue its after-school programs for about 700 kids at three Elkhart schools: Osolo Elementary, Beardsley Elementary and North Side Middle, said the clubs' CEO, Kevin Deary.

Students there often end up improving their math and reading levels, Deary said, thanks to mentors and tutors who ensure that kids do their homework.

They were among 57 after-school programs across the state that were recently awarded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grants, or a total of nearly \$10.3 million.

Roosevelt and Pierre Moran are less than a block from each other. The nearby Agape Missionary Baptist Church will provide space for the programs for parents, and the nonprofit Child & Parent Services will provide some of those classes, Hines said. Other partners include the nonprofit Premier Arts and the University of Notre Dame.

Each of the grants are for one year, beginning with the 2017-18 school year, and are renewable for up to four years, pending annual reviews.

Deary said that the Boys & Girls Clubs is finishing a four-year cycle of the grants. Recipients get 10 percent less after the first four years, he said, citing the 21st Century's guidelines.

The Boys & Girls Clubs provides before- and after-school programs at 20 sites across Elkhart County. This grant applies only to its three after-school sites in Elkhart schools.

Elsewhere in the area, the Indiana DOE awarded \$175,000 of the 21st Century money to the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County, \$150,000 to the Indiana Parenting Institute and \$225,000 to the Michigan City Area Schools.

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