

2020-2021 DASSEL-COKATO COMMUNITY EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT



LEARN, TEACH, GROW



ALWAYS **LEARNING,** **TEACHING & GROWING**

Providing quality life-long learning opportunities for all.

This annual report tells the success story and impact we have on the communities of Dassel and Cokato as well as the surrounding areas. We offer programming for all ages:

- Birth-5 early childhood family education classes
- Preschool classes
- Before & after and summer school-age child care
- Youth & adult recreation & enrichment opportunities
- Aquatics



As COVID-19 continues to run its course, Community Education has been challenged to be adaptive and creative in providing opportunities to Dassel and Cokato and surround areas. A course that once met in-person may have switched gears to be presented in a virtual format. Another activity may have offered a class multiple different times to allow for smaller class sizes. During the summer months, our programs saw increased participation once many restrictions were lifted. The buildings, gyms, fields, pool and grounds were highly utilized by students, families and community members looking to engage and connect through life-long learning opportunities.

A special thank you to the cities of Cokato and Dassel for their continued partnership.

LEARN



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GROW with **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

The mission of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is to strengthen families and enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children.

Dassel-Cokato ECFE course offerings are for children birth to age 5 and their families.



52

unduplicated families
participated in ECFE

107

duplicated students
attended ECFE classes

ECFE special events were planned and hosted with support from the Early Childhood Advisory Council members which were held virtually or outdoors. The council's main fundraiser is the annual D-C Craft Fair which helps support ECFE programming, was canceled for 2020.

EARLY CHILDHOOD **SCREENING**

Early Childhood Screening (ECS) is a free and simple which can detect possible health or learning concerns to enable a child to get help before they begin kindergarten. Screening is ideally performed as close to age 3.

Early Childhood Screening includes:

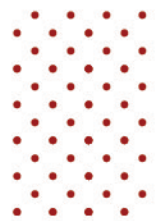
- Thinking, language & communication skills
- Social & emotional development
- Large & small muscle development
- Hearing & vision and height & weight

4

screenings
per year

109

children
screened



TEACH

PLAY AND LEARN PRESCHOOL



Play and Learn Preschool encourages learning through discovery and exploration in a responsive classroom environment. We provide purposeful, developmentally appropriate, play-based instruction for children ages 3-5; designed to support their school readiness skills in areas of social, emotional, cognitive and physical domains. We encourage parents to have active engagement in their child's education and we partner with them in a positive home-school connection.



106

preschoolers
attended

7

preschool sections

3

preschool locations:

Cokato Elementary
Dassel Elementary
Early Childhood Center



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CHARGER **KIDS CLUB:** school-age child care

Charger Kids Club (CKC) is our school-age child care program for ages PreK-5th grade. The hours of operation are before-school from 6-8 am and after-school from 3-6 pm. During non-school days, and during the summer months, the program is open from 6 am-6 pm. Charger Kids Club is located at Cokato Elementary during the school year with busing available for Dassel Elementary students. During the summer their location moves to the Community Education/Early Childhood Center to utilize the facilities, such as the swimming pool, and so students can easily participate in Community Education activities.

During 2020-21 our enrollment was 79 during the school year and 75 during the summer months. On average 22-24 children attended the program during the morning and 42 in the afternoon. 54-59 students regularly utilized care during the summertime. In addition to providing a safe and caring environment for children to receive supervision, attending Charger Kids Club encourages creativity, builds self-esteem, social skills and confidence, teaches cooperation, and promotes positive behavior. Students get to enjoy a variety of activities including: arts & crafts, outdoor/playground fun, sports & games, homework help, movie days, reading & quiet time, field trips, theme weeks and much more!





The youth recreation programs offered through Community Education continue to be some of the most desired programs in the school district. Basketball, gymnastics and football continue to have the highest participation rates among all our recreation activities that we offer. Other popular programs include: ski & snowboard club, strength & conditioning, outdoor hockey and golf. Many of our youth sport programs (Gr. K-6) are built in conjunction with the high school varsity coaches to begin developing the athletes that will one day be their varsity players. Parent volunteer coaches are relied on to assist in helping coach activities as well.

Our newest offering this past summer was a sports sampler featuring 9 different sport options which were taught by our varsity level coaches. 104 youth athletes took this opportunity to try out a variety of sports. This activity received very positive feedback from students and parents.

We also work cooperatively with local youth associations/groups including:

- D-C Youth Basketball Association
- D-C Softball Association
- Wrestling Boosters
- Volleyball Boosters
- Gymnastics Boosters
- D-C Ski & Snowboard Club
- D-C Outdoor Hockey

2102
youth recreation
registrations in
18
recreational areas

YOUTH **RECREATION**



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YOUTH ENRICHMENT

STEM classes provide exciting ways to explore technologies and teamwork while adding in the elements of science, engineering, and math. Tech Club, which continues to be one of our most popular classes, is offered to middle school students who explore robotics, 3D printing, coding and construction models. Tech Club is instructed by applied technology teacher Randy Johnson with the aid of a high school student helper. Not only do students gain specific technology knowledge and skills, but they also learn to collaborate, plan, design, and problem solve.

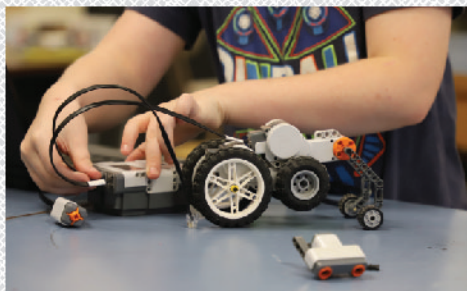
Additional robotics camps were offered during the summer where students engaged in hands-on learning opportunities to fly and battle drones, program robots, and learn electrical and mechanical concepts.

Our ACT test prep course was offered virtually for the first time with great success. Participants developed their musical skills through MS jazz band. Baking and cooking classes are always popular for our young aspiring chefs. Two babysitting courses were offered and students become certified in infant and child rescue breathing as well as first aid skills through the American Heart Assn.

D-C has run the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre program for 26 years but has had to cancel their production the past two summers. They plan to produce *The Wizard of Oz* the summer of 2022.

“I am very fortunate to be able to work with groups of students who are so passionate about honing their technology related skills. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the ingenuity and creativity of these young people”.

-Instructor
Randy Johnson





AQUATICS

Community Education staffs the Dassel-Cokato High School Pool for a variety of aquatic programs, including: Swimming Lessons, Aquacise (water aerobics), Lap Swim, Open Swim, Competitive Swim Club, Special Events and Private Rentals.

Lifeguards and water safety instructors are certified through the American Red Cross. The majority of staff are current high school students as well as returning college students during the summer months.



Swim Lessons are typically offered during the fall and spring as well as multiple daily and evening sessions during the summer months. After very reduced options for most of 2020, lessons resumed with much anticipation. The fall of 2020 had 54 participants and 104 swimmers took lessons in the spring of 2021. During June and July 420 students improved their swimming skills, strokes and endurance.

Lap swim is typically offered 4 times a week throughout the year. Open swim is usually offered on Sunday afternoons between November-May. After a long hiatus Lap and open swim resumed in the spring of 2021.

578
swim lessons

54: fall lessons

104: spring lessons

420: summer lessons



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ADULT **ACTIVITIES**

During much of the 2021-22 school year our adult programs were intentionally put on hold to minimize the number of people within our school buildings. This effort was to keep our student population learning in an in-person instructional model.

In late April and May, adult opportunities for enrichment and recreation returned. We partnered once again with Bounce Back and offered a pottery course taught by a local potter. The A to Z 5K Run/Walk returned bringing awareness to mental health. Families searched the skies in our Minnesota Starwatch course. AARP driver safety program, one of our most popular adult classes, was only available online.



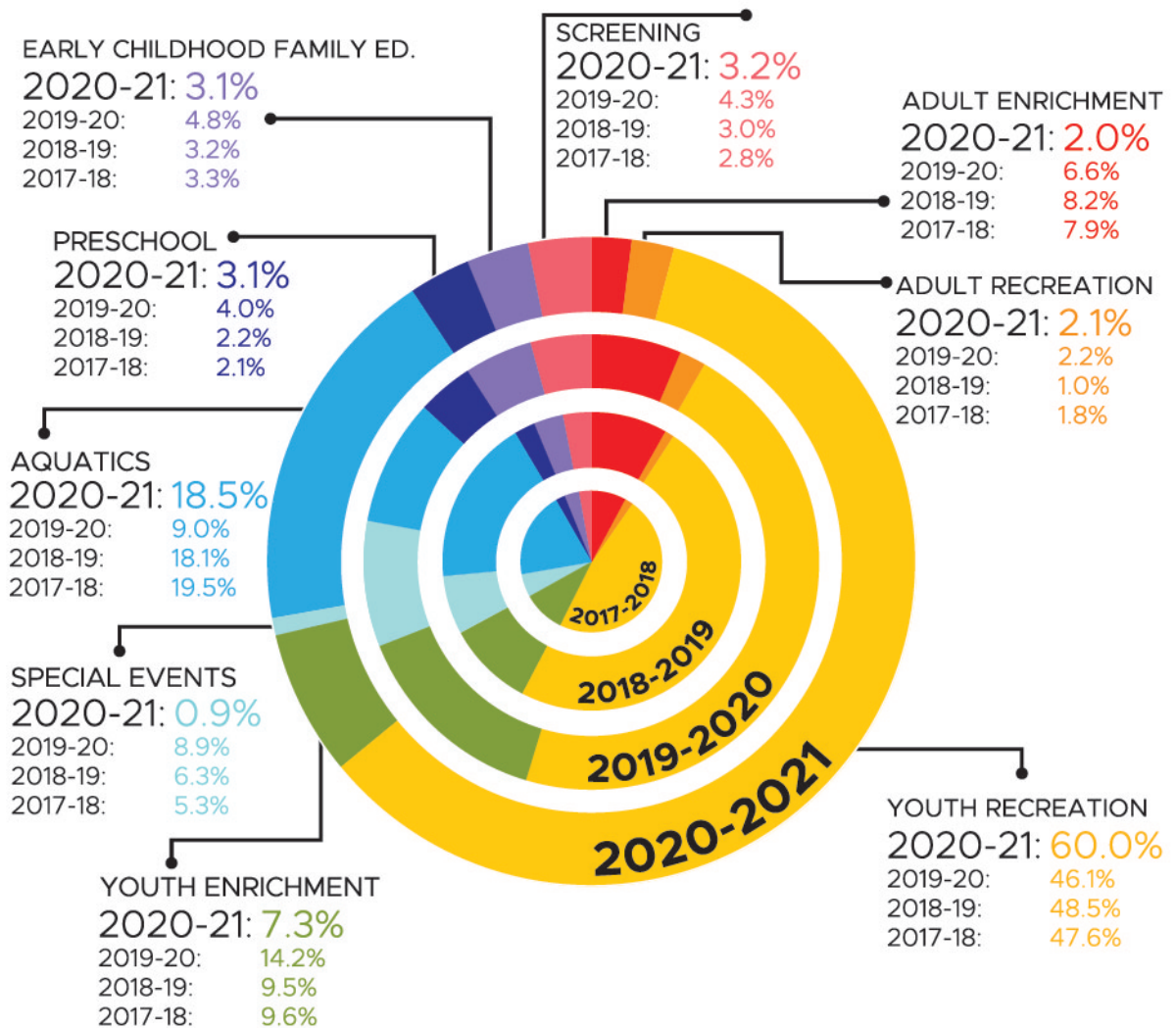
Dassel-Cokato Adult Basic Education (ABE) is a part of the Glacial Lakes Adult Basic Education Consortium made up of 10 local school districts. Total contact hours for the consortium for the 2020-2021 school year were down significantly as were all ABE programs across the state. The decrease in contact hours is attributed to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Glacial Lakes ABE continues to offer online registration and programming in addition to offering distance learning accounts to all students at no cost. Online classes are held at various times of the day and distance learning accounts are available for students to study 24 hours a day/7 days a week. One on one student meetings are also offered.

Glacial Lakes ABE sites served 16 students from the Dassel-Cokato school district during the 2020-2021 school year. These students were served primarily at the Litchfield and Hutchinson sites both online or in person. Those 16 students logged a total of 566 hours in programming.

ADULT **BASIC EDUCATION**



PROGRAM USE 2018-2021



TOTAL REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR	2020-21:	2019-20:	2018-19:	2017-18:
	3456	3035	4909	4795



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YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2020 •
AUGUST 2021

PRESCHOOL: 106

Dassel 4/5 AM: 14
Dassel 4/5 PM: 14
Cokato 4/5 AM: 18
Cokato 4/5 PM: 19
EC Center 4/5: 14
EC Center 3/4: 14
EC Center 3/4: 13

YOUTH ENRICH.: 251

ACT Prep: 18
Babysitting: 29
COR Robotics: 23
Jazz Band: 12
Kids in the Kitchen: 56
Tech Club: 113

ECFE: 107

Little Chargers: 24
Book Bunch/Lunch: 18
Night Owls: 26
Jump into Preschool: 6
Music/Movement: 24
Mixed Ages: 9

YOUTH REC.: 2102

Archery: 25
Baseball Clinic: 49
Basketball: 247
Cheer: 22
Firearms Safety: 13
Football: 308
Golf: 45
Gymnastics: 377
Hockey: 99
School of Fish: 30
Soccer: 189
Softball: 154
Sports Sampler: 104
Strength/Cond.: 141
T-ball: 96
Track & Field: 30
Volleyball: 126
Wrestling: 47

SCREENING: 109

October 2020: 30
November 2010: 22
January 2021: 22
February 2021: 35

ADULT ENRICH.: 69

Bounce Back Event: 14
CPR: 19
First Aid: 12
MN Starwatch: 21
Trips: 3

AQUATICS: 825

Lap Swim: 160
Lifeguard Training: 10
Open Swim: 26
Private Lessons: 24
Swim Club: 44
Swim Lessons: 554
Water Safety Instr.: 7

ADULT REC.: 73

A to Z 5K: 63
Clogging: 10





COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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