

# 2021-2022 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.

## STAY **CONNECTED**

*Engage with us:*

**Facebook:**

[facebook.com/DCCommunityEd](https://facebook.com/DCCommunityEd)

**Website:**

Early Childhood: [www.isd466.org/domain/44](http://www.isd466.org/domain/44)

Community Ed.: [www.isd466.org/domain/22](http://www.isd466.org/domain/22)

**Mobile App:** Dassel-Cokato Schools

**Registration:**



**Address:**

4852 Reardon Ave SW,  
Suite 1400, Cokato, MN 55321

**Phone:** 320-286-4120

**Email:**

[community.education@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:community.education@dc.k12.mn.us)



**ABBIE LANG**  
*Director of  
Community Services*



**ANGELA SMITH**  
*Early Childhood  
Coordinator*



**KRISTA CATES**  
*Early Childhood  
Secretary*



**SHANNON SMIEJA**  
*Community Education  
Secretary*



**JENNIFER TODNEM**  
*Community Education  
Office Support &  
CKC Supervisor*

## MEET OUR **STAFF**



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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 class offerings are for children birth to age 5 and their families.

Early Childhood has a very active Advisory Council that provides support and feedback regarding early learning and parenting opportunities.



**81**  
families  
participated  
in ECFE

**172**  
participants  
attended  
ECFE classes

“ Our whole family loves the D-C ECFE programs! As a stay-at-home mom, the programs provide such a good way to get my kids out, to learn, and meet so many new friends! It's also a huge help to be able to have time to chat with other adults about life and share tips. ”  
-ECFE Parent

## EARLY CHILDHOOD **SCREENING**

Early Childhood Screening supports children's readiness for kindergarten and promotes health and development. Screening is a free and simple check that may link families to early learning opportunities and resources such as, Early Childhood Family Education, preschool programs, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Learning Scholarships, home visiting programs and more. Screening is ideally performed closest to age 3.

Early Childhood Screening includes:

- Thinking, Language & Communication Skills
- Social & Emotional Development
- Large & Small Muscle Development
- Hearing, Vision, Height & Weight

**4**  
screenings  
per year

**151**  
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.



**122**

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

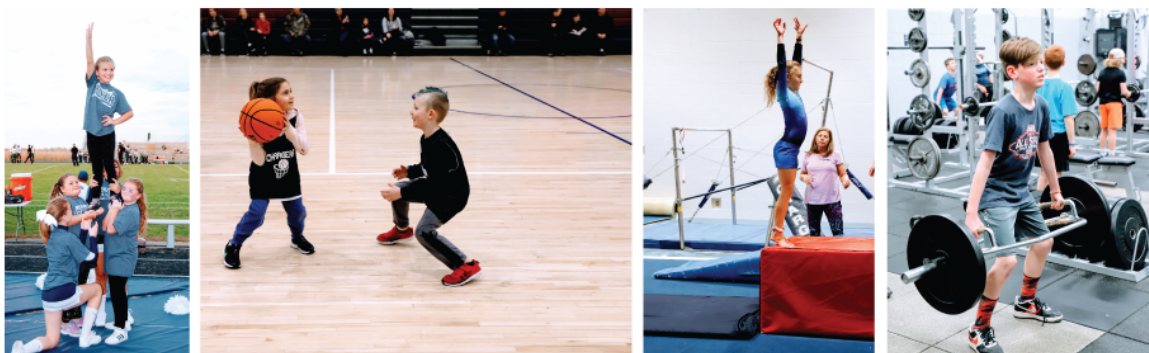
Charger Kids Club (CKC) is our school-age child care program for ages PreK-5th grade. Each year this program continues to grow and increase in enrollment. The hours of operation are before-school from 6-8 am and after-school from 3-6 pm. During non-school days, and during the summer months, the program is open from 6 am-6 pm. Charger Kids Club is located at Cokato Elementary during the school year. In 2022-23 a location will be added at Dassel Elementary as we continue to see childcare needs within our community. During the summer their location moves to the Community Education/Early Childhood Center to take advantage of the swimming pool and playgrounds as well as air conditioning. Students can also easily participate in Community Education activities.

	Enrolled	Attended Daily
Morning School Year:	33	30
Afternoon School Year:	61	50
Summer 2022:	106	70

Charger Kids Club encourages creativity, builds self-esteem, social skills and confidence, teaches cooperation, promotes positive behavior and provides a safe and caring environment for children. Students get to enjoy a variety of activities including: arts & crafts, outdoor/playground fun, sports & games, homework help, 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.

The following activities have the highest participation:

- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Softball
- Football
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- Strength & Conditioning
- Outdoor Hockey
- 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.

There is a continued need to utilize parent volunteer coaches to help assist in coaching many youth recreation activities. They play a vital role in the programs success. It has been harder to recruit volunteers as many may be unavailable to coach due to work and family commitments or feel they lack the skillset needed to lead or instruct. We are looking for ways to help give them some tools to be a successful coach.

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

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

**2666**  
youth recreation  
registrations in

**21**

## 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. A variety of STEM courses are offered including:

- Tech Club
- COR Robotics Summer Camps
- FIRST Lego League
- Robotics programming
- Scratch programming

These courses not only help students gain specific technology knowledge and skills, but they also learn to collaborate, plan, design, and problem solve.

After a two year hiatus, Prairie Fire Children's Theatre program returned in August, 2022 to D-C for it's 27th production (*The Wizard of Oz*), however, participation numbers were lower than expected.

Students developed their musical skills through MS jazz band. Baking and cooking classes are always popular for our young aspiring chefs. 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.





## 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. In an effort to secure staff Community Education offsets certification expenses in return for committing to working for our aquatics team.



Swim Lessons are typically offered during the fall and spring as well as multiple daily and evening sessions during the summer months. The fall of 2021 had 85 participants and 139 swimmers took lessons in the spring of 2022. During June and July 381 students improved their swimming skills, strokes and endurance.

**605**  
swim lessons

**85:** fall lessons  
**139:** spring lessons  
**381:** summer lessons

Lap swim is typically offered multiple times week throughout the year. Open Swim typically is offered on weekends between November-May.



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## ADULT **ACTIVITIES**

A variety of learning opportunities are created for adults which enhance continuing education for all ages and supports a lifetime educational journey.

A variety of new and difference classes continued to be offered. While some find success, such as the women's strength training class, others don't always find their niche. Some new courses that may not have run but were offered included: cross country skiing, tennis, dodgeball league and Instant Pot® Cooking.

AARP driver safety, knitting, lap swim, yoga, clogging and hallwalking have consistent participation.



## ADULT **BASIC EDUCATION**

Dassel-Cokato Adult Basic Education (ABE) is a part of the Glacial Lakes Adult Basic Education Consortium made up of 10 local school districts. Students from Dassel-Cokato attend classes at the Litchfield or Hutchinson sites both online or in person.

Hutchinson Adult Education: 320-234-8507 • HutchABE.145@gmail.com

Litchfield Adult Education: 320-693-2354 • litchfieldabe@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY **EVENTS**

Two large Community Events were held this past year.

### **48th Annual Craft Fair**

*Nov. 6, 2021*

Early Childhood Fundraiser

### **Indoor Community Garage Sale & Pancake Breakfast**

*May 7, 2022*

Grand Opening of the REC Center

**111**  $\approx$  **4,000**  
craft vendors patrons

$\approx$  **300**  
community members

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# PROGRAM USE 2018-2022

## EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ED.

2021-22: **3.7%**  
 2020-21: 3.1%  
 2019-20: 4.8%  
 2018-19: 3.2%  
 2017-18: 3.3%

## PRESCHOOL

2021-22: **2.6%**  
 2020-21: 3.1%  
 2019-20: 4.0%  
 2018-19: 2.2%  
 2017-18: 2.1%

## AQUATICS

2021-22: **15.4%**  
 2020-21: 18.5%  
 2019-20: 9.0%  
 2018-19: 18.1%  
 2017-18: 19.5%

## SPECIAL EVENTS

2021-22: **5.3%**  
 2020-21: 0.9%  
 2019-20: 8.9%  
 2018-19: 6.3%  
 2017-18: 5.3%

## YOUTH ENRICHMENT

2021-22: **7.3%**  
 2020-21: 7.3%  
 2019-20: 14.2%  
 2018-19: 9.5%  
 2017-18: 9.6%

## SCREENING

2021-22: **3.2%**  
 2020-21: 3.2%  
 2019-20: 4.3%  
 2018-19: 3.0%  
 2017-18: 2.8%

## ADULT ENRICHMENT

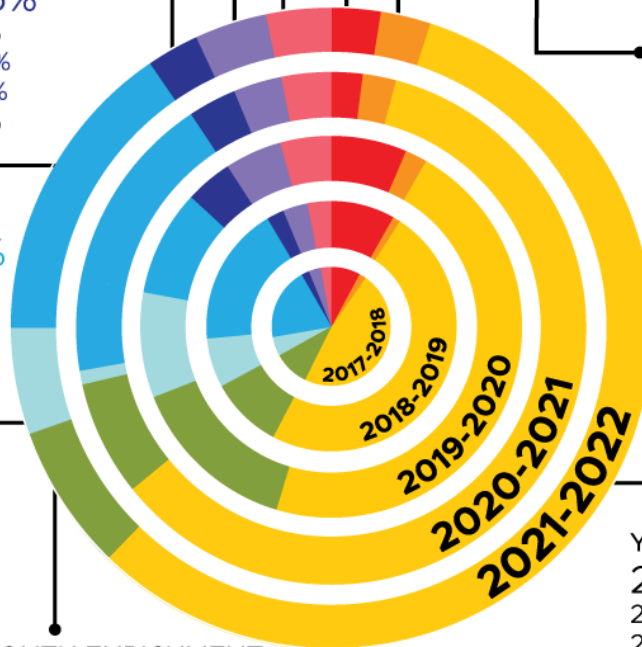
2021-22: **2.5%**  
 2020-21: 2.0%  
 2019-20: 6.6%  
 2018-19: 8.2%  
 2017-18: 7.9%

## ADULT RECREATION

2021-22: **3.0%**  
 2020-21: 2.1%  
 2019-20: 2.2%  
 2018-19: 1.0%  
 2017-18: 1.8%

## YOUTH RECREATION

2021-22: **57.0%**  
 2020-21: 60.0%  
 2019-20: 46.1%  
 2018-19: 48.5%  
 2017-18: 47.6%



## TOTAL REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR

2021-22:	2020-21:	2019-20:	2018-19:	2017-18:
<b>4653</b>	<b>3456</b>	<b>3035</b>	<b>4909</b>	<b>4795</b>



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# YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2021 •  
AUGUST 2022

## **PRESCHOOL: 122**

Dassel 4/5 AM: 18  
Dassel 4/5 PM: 15  
Cokato 4/5 AM: 20  
Cokato 4/5 PM: 17  
EC Center 4/5: 17  
EC Center 3/4: 18  
EC Center 3/4: 17

## **YOUTH ENRICH.: 343**

Tech Club: 100  
Arts & Craft Classes: 51  
Prairie Fire Theatre: 36  
COR Robotics: 33  
Babysitting: 30  
ACT Prep  
FIRST Lego League  
Jazz Band  
Kids in the Kitchen  
Pioneer Park Camp  
Robotics Programming  
Safe at Home  
Scratch Programming

## **YOUTH SPECIAL EVENTS: 247**

Friday Night Out: 151  
Field Trips: 79  
School of Fish: 17

## **ECFE: 172**

Baby Play: 10  
D-C Kids: 31  
Jump into Preschool: 8  
K123-Now What: 10  
Little Chargers: 18  
Lunch Bunch: 18  
Music/Movement: 20  
Night Owls: 32  
Snow Much Fun: 25

## **YOUTH REC.: 2666**

Gymnastics: 534  
Football: 447  
Basketball: 290  
Soccer: 226  
Softball: 158  
Archery  
Baseball Clinic  
Cheer  
Dodgeball  
Firearms Safety  
Golf  
Gym Game Sampler  
Hockey  
Open Skate  
Rec Center Run/Romp  
Ski & Board Club  
Sports Sampler  
Strength/Conditioning  
T-ball  
Tennis  
Track & Field  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

## **SCREENING: 151**

October 2021: 42  
November 2021: 39  
January 2022: 31  
February 2022: 33  
Other: 6

## **ADULT ENRICH.: 116**

AARP: 63  
Knitting: 25  
Big Time Strength: 12  
CPR: 8  
Trips: 8  
Eat to Beat Diabetes  
First Aid  
Instant Pot Cooking  
KeyForge

## **AQUATICS: 1708**

Swim Lessons: 590  
Lap Swim: 571\*  
Open Swim: 314\*  
Private Lessons: 15  
Aquacise: 150\*  
Swim Club  
Water Safety Instr.  
\*Includes walk-ins & repeat users

## **ADULT REC.: 139**

Yoga: 39  
Strength/Train Women: 33  
Clogging: 32  
Pickleball: 21  
A to Z 5K: 14  
Cross Ctry Skiing  
Dodgeball  
Tennis



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**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

4852 REARDON AVENUE SW  
SUITE 1400  
COKATO, MN 55321

320-286-4120  
[WWW.ISD466.ORG](http://WWW.ISD466.ORG)