

Experience middle school after school

By Shelly Miller

Dakota Meadows and Prairie Winds middle schools now offer an after-school program called Middle School After School for sixth through eighth grade students that allows them to join club activities that match their interests. The program offers a variety of opportunities including cooking, art, sports, leadership and coding. The clubs rotate quarterly based on popularity and student surveys.

"Middle school is a time to explore interests and get involved in school life before hitting high school," said Michelle Sorenson, recreation specialist at Mankato Area Public Schools' Community Education and Recreation. "Our goal is to have all students involved in some activity so when they enter high school, they know what they would like to pursue."

The experience mimics the college atmosphere and hanging out at a student union with time to snack, study and socialize before club activities. Each club is led by an advisor and has goals including games, contests, showcase events, performances or service projects.

For more information and to register, call Community Education and Recreation at 507-387-5501 or visit www.mankatocer.com.



Community Education and Recreation intern Ben Ojika plays a group leadership game with students in the after-school program at Dakota Meadows Middle School.

How to find Mankato Area Public Schools' attendance areas

Finding school attendance areas and busing eligibility is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Simply visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxn25e94> and click on "Determine eligibility for busing, then:

1. Select student's grade.
2. Enter address.
3. Click Find School/Transportation Information button to start the search.

Benefits of this online search tool includes 24/7 access and convenience because it can be accessed from anywhere there's internet access.

Not riding the bus? Go online to <https://tinyurl.com/y5p5rnx4> and see Safe Routes to School for Franklin, Jefferson, Kennedy, Roosevelt, Rosa Parks and Washington elementary schools.

Still have questions or need assistance? Mankato Area Public Schools' Central Registration office is another resource to help. Staff can assist with registration, attendance area and busing questions.

For more information, contact staff at 507-387-2125 or centralregistration@isd77.org.