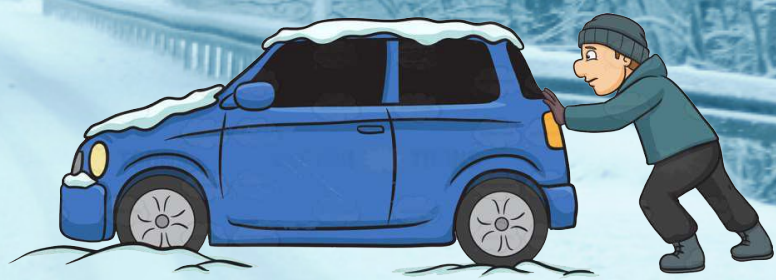


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Boardman students choose Friday school

Morrow County School District students do not attend school on Fridays, since the district has a four-day school week. But some Boardman and Windy River elementary students are choosing to go to school on Fridays anyway. These students are enrolled in the Beyond the Bell program, which is open to all first- through sixth-grade students. This is the second year of the program, although last year it was an after-school model.

According to Brandon Hammond, principal at Sam Boardman, the program currently has 162 students enrolled, which is about a quarter of the total student population at both schools.

The program runs from 8 a.m. to noon, a total of 64 hours in the 2019-20 school year and includes full breakfast and lunch.

Classes offered are Reading, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Creative Art, Language and Culture, Library (stop-motion animation), P.E., Sewing, Word Play, Social Studies, Genealogy and 1st Grade Skill Building.

Community members and community organizations participate and help teach, which include Oregon Trail Library District, the Sage Center and Paula Hansen, a community member who teaches sewing.

“With the state standards we must meet, it’s difficult to fit enrichment classes into the regular school day,” Hammond said. “Beyond the Bell offers students a wonderful chance to explore other interests and pursue new things.”

The After the Bell program is connected to the schools’ Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, whose coordinators oversee it.

For more information about After the Bell, contact Melissa Keefer at melissa.keefe@morrow.k12.or.us.

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