

## **Children's Program – Bridge Lake Point Waunona (BLW) Neighborhood Center**

### *Parent Involvement and Support*

- Parent involvement and support is identified as a primary focus area of program.

Impacts of this focus include:

- Bridging gap between school and community
  - Increased parental involvement in school and their child's development
  - Accessible source of support for parents in need of a variety of services
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- 100% of participants receive free or reduced lunch through MMSD, thus fees are not charged for program. Instead, parental support is obtained through the following methods and opportunities:
    - Weekly to daily communication between program staff and parents.
    - Parents volunteer as reading buddies, tutors, activity leaders within the Children's Program and give back through volunteering in other capacities at the center including one parent's role as a current board member.
    - Opportunities to participate in events and workshops with their child or related to their child's academic success and development. *Examples include parent/child participation in Edgewood College's Rose Project and family nights at the center, and workshops that enhance parent capacities related to their child's academic success including Infinite Campus information sessions.*
    - Parents are invited and transported to school events by program staff.
    - Parents are chaperones on field trips, especially during the summer months.
    - Program staff focus on the holistic well-being of each child. Through this perspective, parents utilize program staff as resources to enhance their own capacities. *Example include staff providing GED tutoring to parents, assisting with interpreting, facilitating communication with Glendale School, and connecting parents with needed services.*