

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BLAST



How will BLAST help my student?

During BLAST, students get extra help with homework; they practice math, reading, and spelling; and they get to participate in a wide range of planned staff lead activities supplementing your child's daytime learning. Our staff provides real life experiences to make connections between what we are learning and why learning is so important to doing the activities and jobs we enjoy.

Who can go to BLAST?

Any 1st-5th grade student in the Black River Falls School District may participate in the BLAST Program. However, students needing additional academic support will be given first option to attend.

When will my student be attending the BLAST Program?

The first day of BLAST is October 10, 2017

1st grade students will walk from Forrest Street Early Learning Center to Red Creek Elementary School upon dismissal on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 2nd grade students will report to the gymnasium to participate in the BLAST Program every Tuesday and Thursday. 3rd-5th grade students will also report to the gymnasium upon dismissal and may attend Monday through Thursday. We ask parents to check off which days their children will be attending on the registration form so we know when to expect them at BLAST.

BLAST will be open after school until 5:30 PM each day. At 5:30 PM when the program ends, parents and guardians will be responsible for arranging a safe way for their students to get home.

Where will the BLAST Program be held?

The BLAST Program will be held at Red Creek Elementary School.

Please remember:

- *Students attending BLAST must be picked up using entrance **A2**, located in the front of Red Creek Elementary near the gymnasium. BLAST will have a staff member at the entrance to make contact with your student's teacher who will promptly send them to the pick-up area.*

My student is usually hungry after school. Should we pack a snack?

No. The BLAST Program provides a free, nutritious snack to students participating in the program.

Will there be responsible adults at the BLAST Program to work with my student?

Certified teachers, as well as trained teacher aides and volunteers will staff the BLAST Program. All of these adults will be on hand to work with your student on homework, reading, math, language skills, and other activities that enrich your student's education. They will be doing all this as well as creating a fun, safe, and respectful environment for your student to learn.

How important is my student's regular attendance?

Very important! Studies show that youth who participate regularly in after school programming get more out of it. More importantly, we believe students will like going to the BLAST Program so much, they will want to be there as much as possible. Nearly 70% of students improved their grades with BLAST's help. Regular attendance and staying the duration of programming (5:30pm) is essential to gaining all benefits of the BLAST program.

How can the School District afford to offer the BLAST Program?

The Black River Falls School District was awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant that is meant to support such things as after school programs. The District is fortunate to have received this grant, and with your help, we'll be able to take full advantage of the opportunities it provides.