

After a successful fundraising campaign, the McIntosh Memorial Library is pleased to announce the return of their annual After School Program. Since 2017 the library in partnership with the Viroqua Area School District has offered the program, providing care for up to 50 youth daily. In spring 2024 when the School District determined a budget deficit would prevent them from providing financial support the decision was made to bring the program to an end. However, as word spread the program was ending a group of parents self-elected to form a group to begin raising money so the program could continue.

Library Director Trina Erickson, "We can't say thank you enough to the parent's group and donors for recognizing the value the After School Program provides. Being able to offer a free program in a safe and enriching environment to local families is such an asset for our community." To date over 200 students have participated in the program.

All money raised from the campaign has been earmarked to cover the wages of the program staff. The library has already formed a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank so healthy food can be purchased and served to the program participants.

"To date enough funds have been raised to offer the program through May 22, 2025. Monetary donations are continuing to be accepted. If additional money is raised the After School Program can continue into summer 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year," said Erickson. Donations may be dropped off at the McIntosh Memorial Library.

Registration has started for youth enrolled in grades 5 and 6 in the Viroqua Area School District. The 5/6 ASP will be offered on Thursday and Fridays from 3:15-5:15 from October 3 – May 22, 2025. Enrollment is limited to 12 students. Registration for students enrolled in grades 1-4 is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of October 7. The elementary aged program will be offered Monday-Thursday from 3:15-5:15 from November 4 – May 22, 2025. Enrollment is limited to 35 children. Students enrolled at the Viroqua Public School will be bussed to the library. The program is provided at no charge.

The required program registration materials can be found on the library website at [www.mcintoshmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.mcintoshmemoriallibrary.org) under the After School Program Tab. Online registration will be the only method used. The program follows the Viroqua Area School District calendar.

Questions about the After School Program should be directed to Youth Services Associate Christopher Olson at [c.olson@wrlsweb.org](mailto:c.olson@wrlsweb.org) or 608-637-7151 x 8 or Library Director Trina Erickson at [t.erickson@wrlsweb.org](mailto:t.erickson@wrlsweb.org) or 608-637-7151 x 3.