

Originally published in the Redlands Daily Facts November 14, 2009

After-school program provides convenient tutoring

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REDLANDS - Staying after school to do more work may not sound fun to some students, but those in THINK Together receive one-on-one tutoring and do interactive projects without leaving school.

THINK (Teaching, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing Kids) Together is a free after-school homework and skill- development program that operates on six Redlands Unified School District campuses and more than 200 schools and community centers in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties.

Crime rates between 3 to 6 p.m. were high and "they found that a lot of kids were getting in trouble after school because they didn't have anything to do," said Haleii Poullard, Moore Middle School's site coordinator. This program aims to eliminate those occurrences, she said.



Students in the Think Together After School program work on homework at Moore Middle School in Redlands on Thursday, November 12. The program involves both an outdoor activity and time in a classroom for homework. (ERIC TOM/Redlands Daily Facts)

Parents can sign their children up for the three-hour program at Clement, Cope and Moore middle schools and Franklin, Kingsbury, Lugonia and Victoria elementary schools.

They are encouraged to stay the whole time and anyone who is absent must sign a release form, said Christine Slattery, Cope's site coordinator. "We push them to be here so that we know they're safe and they're working towards having a better future," she said.

The amount of participants varies at every school and Moore's campus can go from 30 to

60 throughout the week, Poullard said.

"I want the numbers and I want the kids and if this helps keep them out of trouble, I'm here for them," she said.

The only reason Michelle Gonzalez', 12, Moore student, homework won't be finished at THINK Together is if she has tons to do, she said.

Going there is helpful "because you do your homework and it's fun," she said. Michelle and peer Jasmine Lopez, 13, have been in the program since they were fourth-graders at Kingsbury. Routine homework checks keep them on task and has helped them both, Jasmine said.

In elementary school, "our grades went up and my mom got impressed," she said.

Students work in small groups for an hour of homework and tutoring then move to physical and academic enrichment activities.

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