

# Stories that Matter

## WYNNE WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY TO ITS CLASSROOMS

Community members fill the classrooms at Wynne Intermediate School once a month, teaching and sharing their hobbies, careers, and passions with the students through the Students Participating in Activities Really Counts (SPARC) club. This semester approximately 20 community members are connecting with students and providing learning opportunities beyond academics. Staff member Cindy Easley explains the goals of SPARC. **"We are working hard to expose our students to things they may not normally experience while also incorporating career awareness."** After beginning SPARC with 20 club options, SPARC currently offers 38 club options for its 625 students. The wide range of clubs is developed with feedback from staff, students, and stakeholders in hopes of "sparking" an interest for all students.

**Student voice** is a crucial piece for SPARC. Coordinators give students a voice by using student surveys to make suggestions and provide improvements to the process. Every student is able to select two areas of interest and attend one of those areas for an hour each month. Throughout the course of a school year, each student will experience two areas of interest. This year, three of the Wynne Intermediate students began their own SPARC club, teaching their peers about their own passions.

**Partnerships** are important for SPARC success. Materials needed, like yoga mats, batons, and backyard games, are provided by a grant in partnership with the local hospital. Partnerships allow students access to musical instruments, cooking supplies, gardening tools, animals from the local vet, hunting equipment, and crafting/tinkering supplies. The local churches allow the cooking club to use their kitchens, and a local dance teacher volunteers for the Modern Dance club. Local volunteers step in to teach violin, guitar, sign language, baton twirling, yoga, chess, gardening, and community kindness, among others.

**Technology** provides students with unique opportunities; for example, the new SKYPE club was started and gives students the opportunity to interview people beyond the school, district, and state. The Photography club helps showcase the school through Facebook, while the BUZZ club creates and publishes a newsletter. High school students help teach the Mobile Apps club coding and Google IT clubs.

SPARC provides student engagement on all levels and creates opportunities for students to become leaders. The students' t-shirts say, **"Let your interest SPARC a fire in you!"** For more information on how you can SPARC a fire in your students, contact [cieasely@wynneschools.org](mailto:cieasely@wynneschools.org).



Follow their Facebook page to see all of the SPARC clubs at <https://www.facebook.com/Wynne-Intermediate-School-682528655158758/>.