

JUNE 2025

Hi

It has been quite a year! We successfully wrapped school year 2024-25 and we are already in full summer school mode, while planning for next school year.

The past year was rich with new programming, field trips, art, service projects, joyous discovery, and students blossoming into the phenomenal young people they are.

We have a lot to be grateful for. Wonderful teachers and administrators at the schools we served enriched our program with their talent and dedication; incredible After-School All-Stars staff gave it all to make the program shine; program partners added specialty classes taught by professionals in various art fields; young students brought the Youth Advisory Board to life; and the exceptional ASAS Board advised, fundraised, promoted, and supported the Executive Director, the staff, and the program.

Special thanks go to the ASAS leadership team: the Program Director, Evroy; the Program Manager, Dominique; the Mentor Coordinator, Brian; the Operations Manager, Tierra; and, last but not least, the Development Coordinator, Molly. Together, this team brought to light great programming, supported the site-based teachers and coordinators, and discovered new funding sources to increase program offering. So often you hear the phrase "dream team": well, they are!

Happy summer to all of you and many thanks for your unwavering support.



Daniela Grigioni – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





On May 16, After-School All-Stars DC was honored to participate in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Showcase at Eastern High School. Our Leckie EC dance team shined on stage, expressing powerful themes. Meanwhile, the Leckie EC Cyber Security/Coding class presented robots that they built or assembled, informational posters on "good" and "bad" hackers, and even did a drone flying demonstration! We are so proud of our future coders, engineers, and professional dancers. Thank you to OSSE for organizing this wonderful event and thank you to our Program Leaders Meilan and Lawanda for leading such excellent classes!

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



On June 12, Leckie EC students unveiled a stunning mural honoring the Chesapeake Bay and environmental stewardship. Created as part of the Environmental Chesapeake Bay Project, the mural showcased students' creativity and deep commitment to protecting natural resources. It stands as a lasting symbol of their hard work and dedication.

# Highlights



Our All-Stars have been on some exciting adventures in May and June!

On May 7, students from McKinley and Leckie set sail with **Anacostia Riverkeepers** for an engaging boat tour along the Anacostia River. They explored aquatic ecosystems, conducted water quality testing, and discussed how urban communities affect river health. The experience connected classroom learning to real-world environmental issues and sparked meaningful conversations about protecting local waterways.

On May 21, students from Leckie and Johnson visited the **U.S. Botanical Gardens**, immersing themselves in diverse plant ecosystems from rainforests to deserts. They learned about plant conservation, sustainability, and how plant life connects to the Chesapeake Bay's environmental health. It was an inspiring day of discovery and hands-on science.

On June 5, students participated in a field trip to **Red Brick**, where they toured eco-friendly apartment buildings and learned about sustainable urban development. They discussed how green building practices contribute to protecting the Chesapeake Bay and local environments, gaining insight into how urban planning and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

On June 6, students from Leckie, Johnson, and McKinley came together at **Lacy Oasis** for an outdoor adventure marking the culmination of the Chesapeake Bay Program. They engaged in team-building activities, explored nature, and reflected on the year's learning. The day highlighted the power of bringing multiple schools together for fun, connection, and environmental education.

### Thank You



Thank you to everyone who helped make our **Play With A Purpose Field Day Fundraiser**, held on May 14th at Kraken Kourts and Skates, a great success! We raised \$61,000! Congratulations to our winners from Dev Technology Group, Inc., a strong second place by Bart & Associates, Inc. and third place by Stuart-Hobson Middle School!

#### A special thank you to our sponsors for their invaluable support:

Dev Technology Group, Inc. Southpoint Consulting Cadmus Arlo Solutions ACI Solutions ACI Solutions RX Catering NSS Navitas AIS Excalibur Bart & Associates Deloitte

Pinnacle

## In the Pipeline

We are excited to launch our 2025 summer school programming, **All-Stars Camp Create**, hosted at Langley Elementary School from June 30- August 1st, Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 PM. Get ready for a summer of imagination and movement! At All-Stars Camp Create, students will jump into fitness, painting, STEM, and DIY fun- while building confidence and discovering through group mentoring. Every week ends with a celebration, and every day brings something new! FREE for rising 3rd-5th grade students!



**Hosted at Langley Elementary School** 

June 30 – August 1, 2025 | Monday – Friday 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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# **Camp Highlights:**

- BIY & Painting Studios
- **STEM Makerspace Magic**
- High-Energy Fitness Games
- Mindfulness + Zen Workshops
- 🎉 Group Mentoring & Leadership Activities
- Fun Friday Celebrations to wrap up each weekly theme with ju

# **FREE** for rising 3rd-5th grade students

# Needs

In our previous newsletters, we highlighted the need for mental wellness programming. In the past school year, ASAS DC has taken action to meet this need. Utilizing McKinley and Johnson Middle School as hubs where students from several schools came together, the students participated in Wellness Circles led by Minds in Motion Therapeutic Services. This partner group is comprised of former DCPS educators who are also licensed therapists. After meeting the YAB (Youth Advisory Board) in December to ask the students what mental wellness topics were the most useful to young teenagers, the therapists conducted several workshops and Wellness Circles that created safe spaces for the students to process emotions and life events. Students who participated in the workshops have shared that the workshops have helped them learn to manage stress better, that they appreciate having a space where they feel safe and now feel a greater sense of hope. Students have also expressed that they wish more opportunities to address mental health were available at school. By supporting After-School All-Stars DC, you help us to continue to fill this crucial need. Thank you for your support!





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