

Zimbra

chinn@4j.lane.edu

[holt_staf] BEST - Starting Date Changes, and Invitation Send Outs (For Real This Time!)

From : Levi Thompson <thompson_l@4j.lane.edu> Fri, Sep 22, 2023 02:25 PM
Sender : holt_staf <holt_staf-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [holt_staf] BEST - Starting Date Changes, and Invitation Send Outs (For Real This Time!)
To : holt staf <holt_staf@4j.lane.edu>
Cc : Holt ASC <holt@eugeneymca.org>

Happy Friday everyone!

First, I want to thank everyone for their patience as I have sent out sporadic updates and hounded grade level groups to talk about student eligibility. I know with every update I have had different news and time frames to give. This has been in part due to shifting time frames given at the district level, part due to waiting for HR to determine staffing and other staffing delays, and part due to having a truly massive list of students eligible for the program. Having had a chance to meet with both our district level BEST director and Allan in regards to these points, I have had a chance to finalize some dates, narrow my list down, and problem solve some of the additional current delaying factors. Below is a breakdown by point:

Current BEST Timeline (Finalized, unless further adjustments made at district level):

- Monday, September 25th - First Wave of Invitations Sent (In Monday Mailers)
- Tuesday, September 26th - Curriculum Night - I will be available to meet with families that have questions regarding the program.
- Monday, October 2nd - Second Wave of Invitations Sent (In Monday Mailers - This will only happen if there are confirmed available spots left)
- **Monday, October 16th - BEST Starts** (Date has been delayed one week from previous start date)

Student Invitation Lists

As many of you may know through our conversations, based off of the five criteria given for student eligibility, we had over 160 students on the list. This is obviously a problem as the district has determined a total of 30 slots (60 counting the YMCA, which is maxed out at 30 as well). It has been difficult to reduce that list, as each and every student on that list I could imagine benefiting from BEST. Because we have so many students eligible, I have been asked to follow the following parameters in determining our first wave of invitations: a) all students (1st-5th grade) identified as homeless through McKinney-Vento; b) students with spring EasyCBM math scores in the lower 5-25th percentile.

These criteria reduces the first invitation list down to a more reasonable amount. However, unfortunately this means many of our students who would benefit from BEST will not be on that initial invitation list. Please know that I am still keeping a list of eligible students, and if there are open slots, I intend to fill them by inviting students down the list.

The criteria of using spring testing data also eliminates most 1st graders as well, as they did not have EasyCBM math scores to review. My district supervisor has allowed for three 1st

grade exceptions: Two students identified through McKinney-Vento, and one student who has both older siblings qualifying and would qualify by additional criteria alone. I will be speaking directly to their teachers to see if they would do well in the program. When we begin Session 2 of BEST, we will be reviewing 1st grade data as well, and if there is available space, more 1st graders will be invited to join.

For the first wave of invitations, I will be stopping by classrooms on Monday to drop off paper packets with student names attached. Please put these in Monday Mailers for these students to take home. Parents will also receive an email invitation as well. The enrollment form is digital, so if a family needs a paper form, I will have some printed to leave with Keri in the office. You can also ask me directly and I will be happy to print more.

Staffing Updates

The first round of interviews has ended for EAs. I have heard that they have begun call backs, so hopefully by Monday I will have some solid information on our staffing. I am also waiting on updates regarding student worker tutors from UO and Bushnell, how many we will have, and what their available hours will be.

Another delay is that we are still looking to fill part of our Academic Coordinator role. Jenny Potter, our amazing Title I Coordinator, has been willing to take on the portion of the role attending Data Teams and monitoring student progress and recommending appropriate instruction based off this data. However, we also need someone to fulfill the role of instructional coach for our EAs teaching small group. This position, although listed as 1.5 hours, would only require consistent physical attendance in the BEST program from 3:15pm-4:15pm from Mon-Thurs to oversee small group instruction and assist EAs with curriculum implementation. Since Jenny is certified staff, the district will allow for either certified or classified staff to take on this role (with direct approval from Allan if classified). While having Jenny allows us to begin the program, we will need both main responsibilities of the Academic Coordinator position filled to have our program meet ODE grant requirements. If you might be interested in this role, please email Allan and myself.

Again, thank you all for your patience while we get BEST up and running. I am so appreciative of you all for your communication, cooperation, and support for the program.

Have a great weekend!

Levi Thompson
BEST After School Program Coordinator
Holt Elementary School
Eugene School District 4J
thompson_l@4j.lane.edu
541-760-1295

holt_staf mailing list
holt_staf@4j.lane.edu
<http://www.4j.lane.edu/staff/mailling>
