

Director Update- April 2010 ~ Antonio Greene, Project Director

William Penn School District
21st Century Future Forward Program
2010 – 2013 Penn Wood Middle School and Penn Wood High School

The William Penn School District has been awarded the 21st Century Afterschool Program Cohort 5 grant for 2010-2013. The award is \$240,000 per academic year; which will serve the students at Penn Wood Middle School and Penn Wood High School. The focus of the grant program is to improve academic performance as measured on benchmarks, PSSA and report cards in the following subjects: Math, Reading, English and Science.

The 21st Century program maybe aligned with the EAP program because both programs target the same students and will have strict attendance guidelines. The 21st Century program must run for at least 120 days provided that the students receive tutoring in core subjects, academic enrichment, homework help and participate in recreational activities.

New this year is the fitness and healthy living component and mentoring program. All students who participate in the program will have to participate in at least 45 minutes of fitness or creative movement activities daily to promote the need for exercise and bring awareness to childhood obesity. The 21st Century program has join the *Let's Move and Healthy School Initiative*, which was recently launched by First Lady Michelle Obama will give parents *the support they need, providing healthier foods in schools, and helping our kids be more physically active; aimed to decrease the changes of childhood obesity.*

The 21st Century program will implement a mentoring program for the students who participate in the afterschool program. The mentoring program will provide an effective support system to engage students in positive social and recreational activities; promote service learning; enhance morale and positive character development; consistently improve academic performance and personal development; assist the students with setting goals that are attainable and measurable, while promoting self efficacy and positive community citizenship.

The 21st Century program will need to be aligned with the athletic department so that those students who participate in sports and receiving tutoring assistance will get the necessary fitness activity as a daily requirement. All recreational activities will be focused around creative movement. Some of the proposed activities will include: Wii Fit Program, Dance Revolution Gaming, Aerobics, Intramural sports, soul line dancing, dance choreography, body conditioning and other fun activities that promote creative movements.

The Family component of the program will provide activities to strengthen the relationships between the student, community and its family. The 21st Century program will collaborate with

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the Home and School Association to encourage community and parental participation with these activities. Workshops consisting of family literacy, character development, family relationships, nutrition science, financial literacy and creative movements will be planned and implemented accordingly.

The staffing for the 21st Century program will consist of certified teachers; paraprofessionals; student interns; and community partners. The community partners for the 21st Century are Cheng's Martial Arts, Yeadon Public Library, Yeadon Department of Recreation, AJALA Dance Company, Salt & Light Learning Institute, Arajua Backman, and Coach Your Vision.