



CoHO Academy Quarterly Report

September-December 2022

Introduction

This report is to show the public and our partners what The City of Hope Outreach CoHO Academy actively provides through daily curriculum and activities set forth as the goals and measures of success we intend to achieve with the help of the AOSN grant. CoHO Academy focuses its curriculum on several different categories including filling gaps in Literacy, introduction to various arts, and teaching S.T.E.M (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). CoHO Academy also focuses on self-improvement and personal behavior goals for the students. Academy aims to create a safe and affirming environment for the students to thrive through active mentorship and personal development; to feel confident and comfortable to communicate their feelings to their peers and adults around them.

In addition, we are designing an incentivization program to maximize attendance both at CoHO Academy and in their daily school attendance. Ultimately, the goal is to lower the number of absences monthly across all elements of their education, including CoHO Academy. This report will detail the activities and outcomes intended through the CoHO Academy after-school and summer programs.

Attendance and Student Demographics

Attendance Statistics

The CoHO Academy is an after-school program designed to encourage a love of learning among students. The program commenced on October 17, 2022, and follows the Conway Public School academic schedule, running every weekday from 3 pm to 6 pm. In October, 16 students were enrolled with a daily average of 8 kids in attendance. In both November and December, the average attendance was 6 students daily. Three new students enrolled towards the end of 2022, bringing the sum of 2022 enrollments to

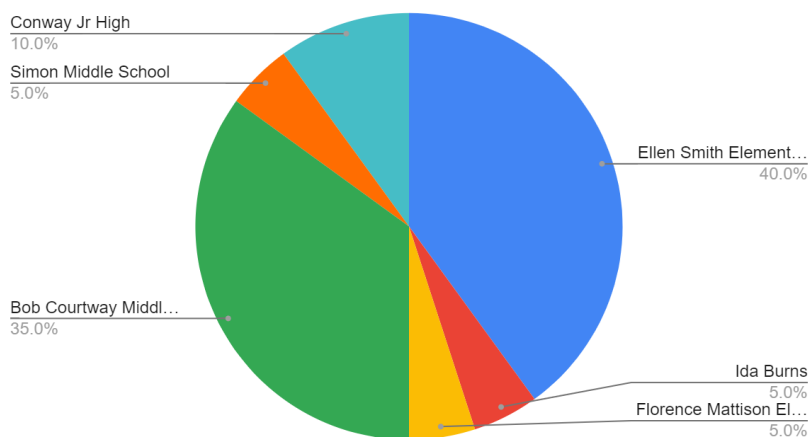
19. Open enrollment for The CoHO Academy will begin in March 2023 with a goal to have 35 students enrolled by April of 2023.

While data for the 2023 academic year is minimal, preliminary data suggests that attendance and enrollment will continue to increase. In January, eight new students enrolled with an average attendance of 10 students daily. With a continued emphasis on regular attendance and parent engagement, the goal of consistent daily attendance of 15 or more students is likely to be accomplished before the start of the summer programs in June 2023.

A majority of participating students in The CoHO Academy reside in low-income housing in the Oakwood trailer park community on East Robins Street of Conway, Arkansas. Despite living in the same community, the schools that they attend vary greatly due to custody accommodations, grade levels, and school zoning difficulties. Of

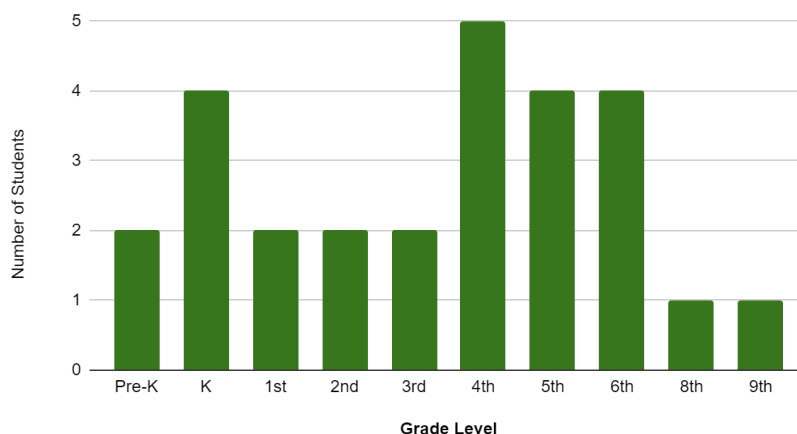
the students currently enrolled, six different schools are represented; Conway Jr. High School, Raymond and Phyllis Simon Middle School, Ellen Smith Elementary School, Ida Burns Elementary School, Bob Courtway Middle School, and Florence Madison Elementary School. The majority of students attend Bob Courtway

Current School of Academy Attendees



Middle School and Ellen Smith Elementary, accounting for 75% of our enrollment. The remaining 25% of our students attend the four schools mentioned above with 10% of our total enrollment attending Conway Jr High School. A majority of students attending CoHO Academy are in grade levels 4-6 with 13 of the 19 enrolled

Grade Level of Attending Academy Students



students accounted for in that range. Additionally, there is a moderate concentration of students that are aged 4-6 years old with six students accounted for in that age group. This is specifically interesting to take note of due to the large range of ages and skill levels our instructors have to take into account when developing lesson plans. We are currently working on implementing a way to split the students into two separate classes that operate simultaneously but with different curricula; each curriculum is tailored to fit the needs of both younger and more advanced students.

Funding Breakdown

CoHO Academy is supported by private and public dollars. A significant funding source for the CoHO Academy is a grant from the Arkansas Out of School Network and Arkansas State University. Funding from the AOSN grant is allocated to administrative and program expenses. CoHO submits an invoice along with receipts for reimbursement of salaries, supplies, and operational expenses.

Reimbursement of expenses began in October of 2022 and will continue through August 2023. The following expenses were reimbursed for the first quarter.

- October 1-31, 2022: \$7,197.97
 - Salaries: \$5,551.66
 - Fringe Benefits: \$729.55
 - Supplies: \$916.76

- November 1-28, 2022: \$8,468.49
 - Salaries: \$5,551.66
 - Fringe Benefits: \$834.33
 - Supplies: \$2,082.50

- December 1-31, 2022: \$8,617.51
 - Salaries: \$5,551.66
 - Fringe Benefits: \$834.40
 - Supplies: \$2,231.45

Personal and Social Development

- 30% of Students attending are learning to use their words to effectively communicate their emotions.
- 80% of Students attending are showing improved behavior through increased participation in assignments, lectures, and writing prompts. Social-emotional

surveys have been administered and show improvement since the commencement of the 2022-2023 program year.

- 60% of Students attending are participating in dance class and other physical fitness activities a minimum of once a week.
- 50% of Students attending are decorating the walls with their artwork and accomplishments to boost confidence.
- Parent engagement has increased from 0%-6% in the last quarter. Parents are showing increased engagement with the program since the implementation of weekly newsletters that outline student accomplishments and curriculum.
- 100% of the students attending are completing their weekly homework by having one-on-one assistance with a tutor. There is a 1:4 daily student-to-tutor ratio at CoHO Academy.
- Each evening, as CoHO Academy is released for the day, students are encouraged to write words of affirmation on the whiteboard. We do this for the students to encourage positive thinking towards themselves and allow the day to end on an inspirational note. Affirmations include sentiments that they are all worthy, unique, and special. 100% of the students participate in this daily, teaching each student motivational language skills.

Art

- 70% of students participating are learning how to express themselves through various weekly art projects.
- 100% of art activities, such as drawing self-portraits and filling in blanks about themselves, are geared to encourage positive self-image development for the students.
- Students are learning origami, which improves dexterity and teaches them to follow detailed visual instructions.
- 30% of students attending are showing an increased interest in the subject of art.

Literacy

- 25% of Students attending are showing an improvement in their reading comprehension, and have increased the amount of time spent reading each week.
- 20% of students attending have shown an increase in willingness to read; a 5% increase from the beginning of the 2022-2023 program year.
- 30% of students enrolled choose to read in their free time when other options include outdoor playtime, indoor game time, drawing, and sometimes movies.
- Students participate in weekly writing prompts and are taught by tutors and instructors how to construct grammatically correct sentences. Each student is

asked to share their writing response if they feel comfortable, encouraging confidence in both themselves and their academic work. 60% of students enjoy sharing their writing; a 40% increase from the beginning of the 2022-2023 program year.

STEM

STEM courses will be executed during the 2nd Quarter of 2023.

A Success Story

A student that frequently caused disruptions in the classroom opened up about their career goals. In the beginning, they would not actively participate in the daily educational activities, nor would they do their homework. The student often argued with the instructors and frequently attempted to leave the building. However, the CoHO Academy staff remained patient with them, reminding the student that they are valued and important and that all of the staff desired for the student to remain at Academy. Eventually, the student opened up about their love of art and how they wanted to become an artist. During art day, they would create beautiful self-expression artworks, of which they created their favorite art piece named, "A Dark and Stormy Night". The staff collectively pretended that they were attending an art gallery viewing their pastel drawings, while the student would explain their artwork to the staff and list prices for their artwork. They eventually began participating in classroom activities, including math jeopardy where they helped solve math problems for their team. At the beginning of the school year, the student was falling behind in their schoolwork due to many absences and missing assignments. Now, all of their assignments are complete, correct, and returned to their teacher on time. They are now back on track in their classes, and their favorite subjects are currently art and math. The student found hope at the CoHO Academy, and because of that hope, they are paving the way to a better academic future.

Recommendations

For CoHO Academy, we recommend significantly more involvement with the schools of our students. In order to better assist our students and track their accomplishments, we need access to our students' grades, school attendance, and behavior in their schools. By coordinating with the schools, we would be able to develop goals with the student and aid them academically and developmentally. Additionally, we believe that with coordination with the school transportation system, we could create a route to CoHO, increasing our student attendance, and decreasing parents' apprehensions. Through

this collaboration, parents would have the assurance that their child is able to transition from school to CoHO, regardless of what school they attend.

One development for the 2023 program year is setting up a conference with parents over their students' report cards once every nine weeks. Additionally, we will be sending home reading packets for students to encourage parental involvement. These packets will include an overview sheet of each child's reading assessment so that the parents can also identify points of improvement for their child and communicate their observations.

We also would like to increase our engagement with parents by creating a mock parent-teacher conference day at CoHO Academy. This day encourages parental involvement in the academic development of their children. It would also serve to strengthen our instructors' relationships with the parents, so both parties are comfortable with each other when it comes to improving their child's development. Lastly, we desire to implement a career day for CoHO Academy once a year. On career day, we will have various occupational booths where students can be informed about possible careers of choice. Career Day would support the students develop work-based skills through exposure to various career fields, and teach them more about what it takes to be successful in those fields.

CoHO Education Committee

Dan Williams, Committee Chairman

Dr. Phillip D. Fletcher, CoHO Executive Director

Tara King, COO/Academy Director

Marie Aldrich, Simon Intermediate School, Conway Public Schools

Sarah, Salazar, Greenbrier Elementary, Greenbrier Public Schools

Kayla Perry, Arkansas Health and Human Services

Sergio Rincon, Private Citizen