

St. Mark Youth Enrichment provides innovative programs and services that cultivate the educational and social-emotional growth of youth and families.

## Early Risers & Step Up

No before/after school program December 22nd-January 2nd  
 No after school at Marshall- December 16th (holiday concert)  
 Enjoy the break!

### Themes for December:

Winter  
 Holidays

Students were busy in November focusing on giving thanks and autumn! The before and after school programs are enjoying the opportunity to have speakers and enrichment lessons to help enrich their learning and December, although it is a short month for program, is no exception! We will be welcoming these guests during the month:

Mississippi River Museum -Winter Survival  
 Hillcrest Family Services - Tobacco prevention  
 Boy Scouts of America  
 Girl Scouts of America  
 Lego League -Audubon



## Parent to Program Connection

It is hard to believe we are entering the month of December! When visiting our program sites you can see the joy and excitement in the faces of our students and staff! Various sites have had the chance to take part in some "extra" enjoyable enrichment opportunities thanks to Loras College students - some examples are making homemade ice cream and oobleck (fun slime kiddos enjoy)! We are so thankful to all of the individuals who come into our programs and share their time/talents/treasures with our students!

We are also very thankful to the St. Mark staff that are with the students each and every day at program. Twice a year we do something special for our staff - Staff Appreciation, usually in November and May. It is because of our wonderful staff at our sites we serve as many students that we do and offer the level of quality program we offer! We appreciate the relationships our staff make with the students in our programs - please be sure to thank the great staff that take care of your kiddos, I am sure it will make their day!



-Amanda Avenarius, Director of Programs



## Happy Holidays!!

According to some researchers, students can lose up to a month of learning during the holiday break. Reading to or with your children is one way to help combat this loss, but if you need some fun ideas to keep your kids busy, check out these websites!

**Preschool to 2nd grade** -- [Starfall.com](http://Starfall.com): reading, math, phonics for the young set. Some of the resources are free, others available with paid membership.

**8th grade on up** -- [Coolmath.com](http://Coolmath.com): fun math games, brain benders, science games.

**Science for all** -- [HowStuffWorks.com](http://HowStuffWorks.com): how life jackets work, facts about lobsters, other weird science.

**Reading for all** -- [Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com): find a good book to read for all family members, including that high schooler.

## Kid's Corner



## Minimalist Gift Giving

Everyone likes to give and receive gifts. Making gift giving meaningful and simple this year by focusing on these four areas:

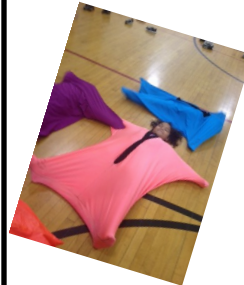
- Something they want
- Something they need
- Something to wear
- Something to read

How can you make this a part of your family tradition?

## Upcoming Events!

### Sponsor Angels

Families who have signed up will be notified when their gifts are ready to be picked up and we will schedule individual times with you!



### Jingle Bell Hop

December 14th-1-4PM-Grand River Center

Tickets -\$4/person

**St. Mark families who RSVP to Beth by December 5th will be able to enter for free.**

[bmcgorry@stmarkyouthenrichment.org](mailto:bmcgorry@stmarkyouthenrichment.org)  
563-582-6211 ext. 110

### FREE CPR Training

Contact Amanda at 563-582-6211 ext. 105 or [aavenarius@stmarkyouthenrichment.org](mailto:aavenarius@stmarkyouthenrichment.org) to register or learn more!

**Billing:** If you have questions regarding your billing statement, please contact Executive Assistant, Linda Schmidt at 563-582-6211 Ext. 101 Please send all payments to St. Mark Youth Enrichment. Do not send or drop off checks to program. Thank you!