

# The Learning Tree Program

## Fisher ES Mighty Marlins

### K - 5th Grade



### Daily Program Schedule:

Snack: 2:45 to 3:05 pm

Enrichment Activities:  
3:15 to 5:15 pm

Hooked on Learning - *(Homework Help)*  
3:15 to 5:15 pm

Bus Departure: 5:30 pm

Program Dismissal:  
5:15 pm - 5:30 pm

*\*Daily Schedule May Change Due to Room Availability, Fisher School Events, and /or Student Extra Curricular Commitments (i.e. tutoring, strings / choir).*

### Fisher LT Focus:

*Helping Kids Grow Inside & Out.*

If you have additional questions or needs, please feel free to contact me at 397-4482 or email [chandlerdixon@nisd.net](mailto:chandlerdixon@nisd.net)

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## Welcome to the Learning Tree Program

Here are some frequently asked questions about the program.

### **Why is the Learning Tree free at my school?**

NISD was recently awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The purpose of this grant is to connect the after school hours to the school day, and to expand learning and enrichment activities that can improve student achievement. The goals also include: to improve attendance, behavior, promotion rates, graduation rates, and preparation for college or the workforce.

### **Why isn't there a free Learning Tree program at all schools?**

This is a very competitive grant, and only certain schools qualify, so not all schools in NISD will have a free Learning Tree program. Learning Tree also operates regular tuition sites and sliding scale sites that are sponsored by other grants and funding sources.

### **What kinds of things will my child do in Learning Tree?**

Students will participate in snack time, homework time, outdoor recreation, and an hour of Academic Enrichment. During the Academic Enrichment, students will participate in fun, hands-on projects and activities that reinforce learning in Math, Reading, Science, or Social Studies. Lesson plans for these activities were written by NISD teachers.

We also work with many community agencies to present additional topics such as nutrition education, scouting, financial literacy, character development, college awareness, and community service.



### **Will Learning Tree staff check my child's homework to ensure it is correct??**

While our staff will ensure a quiet period in which to do homework, and will assist if possible, it is each parent's responsibility to ensure homework is completed and correct when the child arrives at home.

### **Why are there rules about attendance and early/late pickup times?**

Learning Tree is not a daycare or "drop in" program. To meet best use of our grant funds, as well as to meet student attendance and data requirements, we ask that parents allow their child to attend the program consistently and for the entire program time. The program ends at 5:30 PM and our staff are off-duty at that time. Picking up your child earlier than 5:15 PM or later than 5:30 PM will result in an Early/Late Pickup Slip. Parents who accumulate 3 Early or Late Pickup Slips per semester may have their child withdrawn from Learning Tree.

### **What about times when my child is sick and did not attend school or my child has an appointment?**

A child, who accumulates 3 unexcused absences per semester, may be withdrawn from Learning Tree. Being absent from school is Excused, which we will verify with the attendance secretary. Going to a doctor's appointment is Excused; however we will need a note from the doctor's office. Going to sports practice, dance lessons, shopping, etc is **Unexcused**.

### **As a parent, am I expected to participate in the Learning Tree too?**

Yes! In order to meet additional grant requirements of parent participation, we ask parents and other adult family members to attend our monthly events.

These events will be held two evenings each month and cover various topics of interest. A monthly newsletter will be sent home letting you know about the events.

### **Who can I talk to if I have questions about Learning Tree?**

Each campus will have its own After School Program Specialist, a professional staff person who oversees all aspects of the program.

## **Program Overview:**

### **Funding:**

The program is funded through a TEA – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant

### **Objectives:**

The objective of the program is to:

- Provide a safe and enriching environment for students
- Support students academically
- Support school initiatives
- Provide workforce & college readiness

### **History:**

NISD's Learning Tree After School Program has evolved from three grant funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers in 1999, and now offers quality after school programming at 31 sites (25 elementary and 6 middle schools) funded by two 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grants, City of San Antonio, Title I Stimulus Funds, and Tuition-Based.

### **Enrollment/Curriculum:**

Each site serves 100-150 students and provides homework help, tutoring, enrichment, health/wellness, art, journalism, community service, and service learning activities at no cost to the families. Parental involvement and educational activities are also a large component of the program.

### **Staffing:**

A Professional After School Program Specialist will oversee and supervise youth leaders on a 1:18 ratio.

### **Training:**

Learning Tree staff receives training in CPR, Classroom Management, Child Development, and Policies & Procedures. In addition, staff attends regular staff meetings provided by existing LT Program specialists and the district staff development department.

### **Campus/District Relationship:**

The Learning Tree After-School program is an extended day enrichment program with campus/district support. Staff will provide open communication, cooperation, and collaboration are necessary to support campus initiatives and student needs. The program is a part of the life of the school serving students and community. Facilities are used collaboratively and cooperatively.

### **Vision**

#### **What does an effective after school program look like?**

The After School Program Specialist is a member of the: Leadership team, School Advisory Team, attends faculty meetings

Curriculum – The Learning Tree staff implements an enrichment curriculum which was developed by Northside Certified Teachers, The lessons are tied to the Districts Scope and Sequence in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts.

The school day teachers and Learning Tree staff communicate on student achievement, behavior and attendance.

The Learning Tree program is included on the schools website & newsletter.

Staff development for Learning Tree staff is provided by Learning Tree After School Specialist, regular day teachers and district staff.

The Learning Tree staff collaborates with the school day staff to support extra curricular activities after school in music, drama, technology, and AVID activities.

The Learning Tree After School Specialist coordinates with school day staff to support tutoring sessions (SSI initiatives).

The Learning Tree staff works with the school day staff to ensure homework is completed during the after school program.

The Learning Tree staff works with school day staff to implement successful strategies for special needs students.

The school day teachers actively recruit & encourage students to participate in the after school program.

Learning Tree staff collaborates with the school day staff to provide quality programs for parents.

The Learning Tree program supports campus initiatives.

The Learning Tree After School Specialist offers extra-duty paid opportunities for campus staff.