

Kids Plus Parent and & Member Handbook



Welcome to Kids Plus!

Who We Are:

Kids Plus is a program founded by the Northland Foundation and run by Esko Community Education. We are a student-led service learning group for students grades 6-9. On-site advisors strive to help students discover causes they are passionate about, and help facilitate their goals and ideas. Our priority as a group is to work with local citizens and organizations to benefit our community in ways students find important.

Our Guiding Principles:

- **Respect** is the foundation of all relationships and efforts.
- The **diversity** of all people should be valued and recognized.
- **Families** must play the primary role in nurturing youth development.
- The people of a **community** are best qualified to identify their needs and initiate action.
- The best **solutions** to youth issues involve the entire community.
- The improvement of **all** youth should be emphasized.
- Youth and adults have an **equal voice** in our organization.
- Youth need to be valued and given **opportunities** to make contributions to their communities.
- Energetic and enthusiastic community **volunteers** are the key to successful collaborations.
- Time and **commitment** are essential to effect change.

Kids Plus Meeting Dates:

After school meetings will be held every Wednesday (Sept. 18-May) from 2:15 PM until 4:00 PM in the Esko Education Center. There will be exceptions throughout the year due to events/volunteer opportunities and holiday breaks. All changes will be communicated to parents and students. Special events and additional meeting dates will be posted on the Kids Plus website. It is the responsibility of students to check this page regularly.

Students will meet outside of the elementary office, and walk over to the Esko Education Center together with their advisor. Parents are to pick up their students at 4:00 PM at the Esko Education Center. Students should bring note-taking materials, and it is recommended that students bring a snack for themselves.

Parent Communication and Involvement:

This group strives to prepare students for leadership roles in their school and community. Students are given a degree of ownership in staying up to date on plans and activities. We ask parents to assist us in this mission by holding your student responsible for their participation in the group. We encourage you to discuss with your student what they are learning in meetings and volunteer opportunities. Our main line of communication will be through your student; however, we will email and add information to our Kids Plus website and Community Education social media pages as needed.

Parents are always welcome to participate in Kids Plus activities. If you are able and willing to drive and/or chaperone, please indicate this on the Kids Plus Registration and Emergency Contact form. You will be contacted if additional help is needed.

Registration and Permission:

Please complete the form included with this handout which grants your child permission to attend all Kids Plus events through Community Education throughout the 2019-20 school year. Information will be provided for every event beforehand, but additional permission will not be necessary unless needed by a partnering organization.

Kids Plus Behavior Expectations:

- Be kind and respectful towards other Kids Plus members, staff, and adults.
- Be responsible with school and community property.
- Follow all Esko School policies and expectations.
- Be good representatives of our school, community, and program on and off school grounds.
- Work as a team and share the workload of Kids Plus events and activities.
- Be present and punctual at Kids Plus meetings and events.

Anyone who may be interested in joining Kids Plus is welcome to attend our first meeting September 18th, however, we ask that you register online by October 1st. On October 9th we will be drafting a “Kids Plus Constitution,” which will lay out our group expectations for the 2019-20 school year.

In the event of severe or grievous misbehavior, Kids Plus staff will be in contact with parents and will address the situation in accordance with Esko School policy.