

Unique clubs abound in Bossier City schools

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September 22, 2010

Bossier City schools have ramped up after-school and in-school clubs for children and teenagers.

For example, Benton High School has started a fishing club called the Bass Club that is becoming wildly popular.

In fact, the school was recently represented by students Kyle McClure and J.P. Kimbrough, who fished Lake Dardanelle in Russellville, Ark., in July.

The Bass Club was introduced to universities that were there to offer four-year scholarships to the winners. There also was the chance to win benefits and sponsorships from companies.

"The Bass Club teaches a sense of teamwork," said Vickey Thrash, Benton High School principal

At Stockwell Place Elementary School, new Principal Rhonda Schnell is happy to announce new and unusual clubs at her Shed Road elementary school.

The new Checkers Club, for example, has more than 50 new students.

The school has a chess champion teacher who started the club for fourth- and fifth-graders. There also will be a new drama club, which will possibly be fronted by a drama teacher on loan from Legacy Elementary School.

"Checkers is a Mensa game and mathematically it's a great game," said Rose Granfors, special ed paraprofessional at Stockwell.

In addition to checkers, Schnell said she will be bringing in the Destination ImagiNation program this year.

"Last year we focused on the academic program Odyssey of the Mind," she said.

"I've worked with Odyssey of the Mind, but am looking forward to Destination ImagiNation."

Destination ImagiNation is an after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-

bending challenges and present their solutions at tournaments.

At Airline High School, an outdoors club will also put its focus on bass fishing.

"We have a lot of kids that not only bass fish, they like to do things in the outdoors such as camping," said Principal Jason Rowland.

He said the school wants to take the outdoors and bass fishing to the next level.

"We have some kids that are so good as fishermen and women, they can complete on a national level," Rowland said.

Sponsorships are what Airline High School will concentrate on helping children in their club to achieve.

"We want to provide entertainment for the children as well as a learning experience," Rowland said.