



Marissa McKenzie <mmckenzie@twpunionschools.org>

Re: The B-WISE Alliance - Year 5!

1 message

J Acevedo <jacevedo2@tups.org>

Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 11:32 AM

To: Marissa McKenzie <mmckenzie@tups.org>

Summer FLEW!!! We are all healthy and well thankfully.

Because our program is in partnership with the Township of Union and Recreation Center, we follow the exact calendar of Union public schools. We start and end the same time and whenever there are school closures or half-days, we are also closed for business. our business operating hours are 3-6PM. We are fully responsible for cleaning up the space.

Ideally we would need any large space with tables that can accommodate up to 16 boys. This can be a cafeteria, large classroom, library, etc. I would ideally walk thru the building with you and/or the principal to identify the most optimal space. On days that the school has any events or in case of emergencies, we would use the Vauxhall Meeting Center which is operated by The Recreation Center as a back up and it is directly across the street from Jefferson School. We do practice yoga with the boys so access to a gym or open space could be helpful although not mandatory. We also would utilize the outdoor basketball court for our recreation hour and the Vauxhall Library for our tutoring/homework support sessions.

I am happy to answer any and all additional questions.

On Friday, August 22, 2025, Marissa McKenzie <mmckenzie@tups.org> wrote:
Good morning!

How are you and the family doing? Summer went too fast...

What spaces would you need for the program? What are the days and hours? When does the program start and end (dates)?



On Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 10:25AM J Acevedo <jacevedo2@tups.org> wrote:
Peace Marissa,

I am forwarding you a conversation with me and Principal Damato of Jefferson. You can read the full thread below. To summarize, I run an after school program in partnership with the Township of Union called The B-WISE Alliance (IG: @theBWISEalliance) which is going into its 5th year in business!

We support our communities' young boys in grades 3-5 with academics and social emotional development as they enter middle school. Our program runs from 3-6PM after school. The families love our programming and are excited to continue.

Last year as you may know, we were at Burnet Middle School thanks to Principal Kloc. This year I shared a feedback survey and our families have together requested if we could use Jefferson School as our home site given the access to the Vauxhall Library and the full basketball court. These resources have added value to our program however parents were responsible for transporting the boys. Principal Damato has given us the green flag to use Jefferson as you will note in the email. We are now seeking the final blessing from you.

The Superintendent Robert Cowper and I will meet to discuss B-WISE and I'm looking to communicate all new changes to our families early next week.

Kindly let me know as soon as you can.

With Peace,

The Union Recreation Department Proudly Introduces

B-WISE

Boys Working Intelligently & Social Emotionally

AFTER SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Greetings with Peace Principal Damato:

Can you believe summer is nearly over! Hopefully this message finds you fully rested and ready for the upcoming school year. This year my daughter Vera Acevedo will be attending Jefferson and she is very excited. I told her you were a fantastic school leader and to expect a great year ahead. Kiyoshi also says hello - he'll be attending 7th grade this year.

As you know, my after-school program in partnership with the Township of Union called The B-WISE Alliance (Boys Working Intelligently & Social Emotionally) is entering its 5th year in business and we are looking forward to what is to come ahead. This past year, our original space at The Knights of Columbus had come to an end as the Knights no longer own the building and we partnered with TUPS who granted us permission to use space at Burnet Middle School. The boys had an excellent year and we are ready for the next.

Our families have completed their annual summer feedback survey where we collect information to continuously improve B-WISE and one of the biggest pieces of feedback we received was the strong preference to request from TUPS to use Jefferson as our new space. Which brings us to the purpose of this email...

I am writing to humbly request permission from you as the school leader to utilize Jefferson as our new home for the 5th year of The B-WISE Alliance as requested by our families as all either have sons attending this year or have had their boy enrolled last year. Principal Kloc was gracious to allow us to use Burnett but with Jefferson having easy access to the Vauxhall Library and a full basketball court, families would very much prefer to make it our new home. As a reminder, we are a fellowship that combines instruction, recreation, yoga and social-emotional skill building, using facets of Howard Gardner's multiple intelligence theory and Daniel Goleman's SEL Framework to help guide our boys within our community to explore and identify who they are as they prepare for middle school and beyond. We meet Monday-Friday from 3PM - 6PM.

Kindly let me know if you prefer to discuss any details. I need to provide a final report to Robert Cowper, Superintendent of Recreation by next Friday with all final changes to disseminate to new families. I look forward to hearing from you and am excited to potentially be a part of the Jefferson family.

With Peace,

J Acevedo | Founder of B-WISE
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