

EXCEL BEYOND THE BELL ELEMENTARY

Leveraging the Power of Play



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The Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary (EBBE) program is a comprehensive, high-quality after-school program that provides opportunities for academic and recreational enrichment in an environment that stimulates learning and harnesses the power of play. The EBBE program was designed to remove barriers to participation and promote pathways to student success.

EBBE was created as a result of community advocacy to increase quality after-school programming offered to Montgomery County students and their families.

In January 2017 (FY17), the program was implemented at Burnt Mills and South Lake Elementary Schools serving 240 students and their families.

Due to the success of the program, additional funding was awarded in FY18 and FY19 for an expansion to four additional elementary schools serving an anticipated additional 480 youth and their families.



**SOUTH
LAKE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Est. 2017

**BURNT
MILLS
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Est. 2017

**JOANN
LELECK
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Est. 2018

**HARMONY
HILLS
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Est. 2018

**GAITHERSBURG
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Est. 2019

**OAKVIEW
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

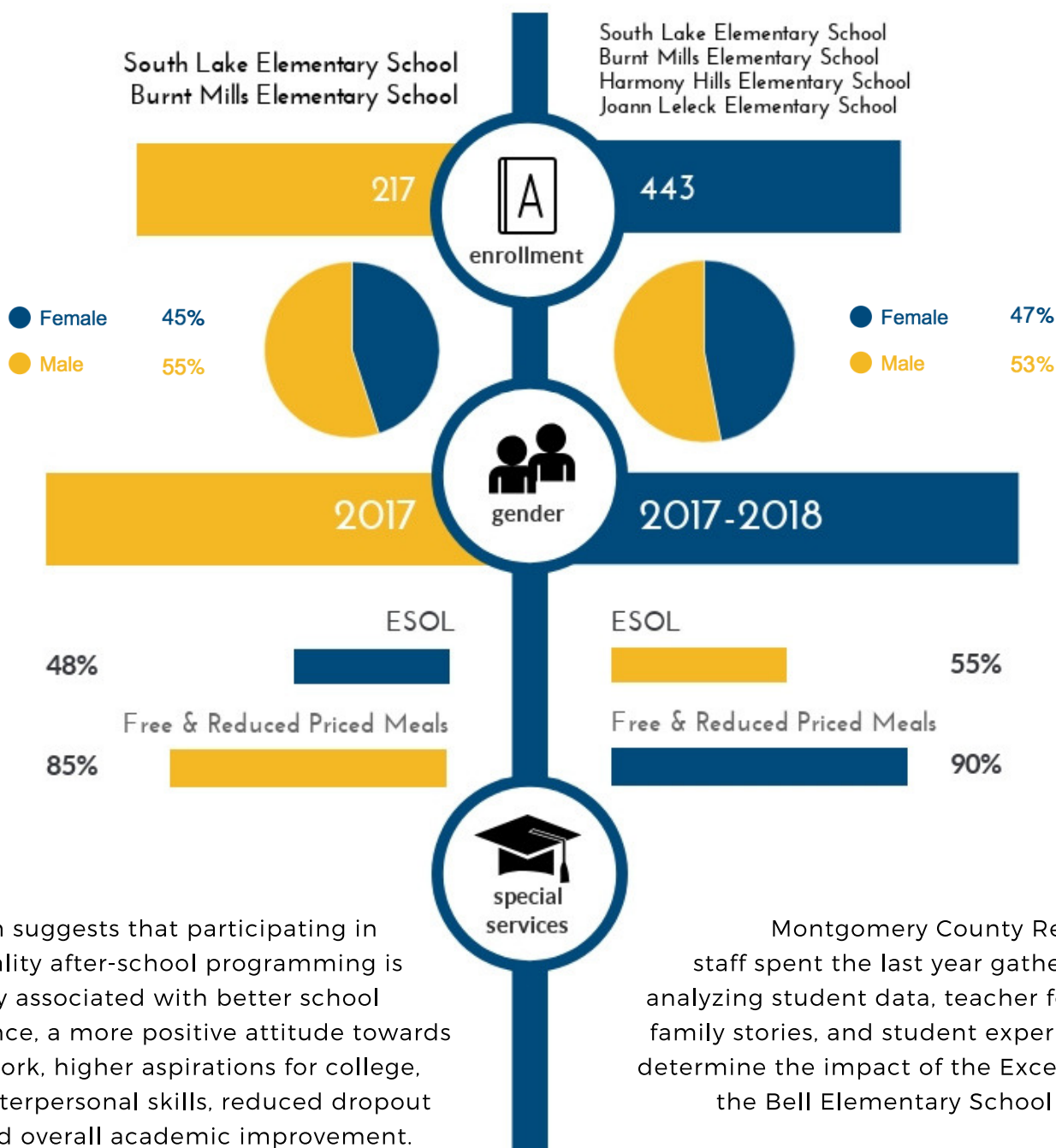
Est. 2019

AT A GLANCE

WHO WE SERVED



EBBE THROUGH THE YEARS



Research suggests that participating in high-quality after-school programming is positively associated with better school attendance, a more positive attitude towards school work, higher aspirations for college, better interpersonal skills, reduced dropout rates, and overall academic improvement.

Montgomery County Recreation staff spent the last year gathering and analyzing student data, teacher feedback, family stories, and student experiences to determine the impact of the Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary School program.

^ Data on this page provided by Montgomery County Collaboration Council for FY16- 17 and FY17-18.

PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

5 in 6

Parents said that the EBB Elementary Program helped their student learn new things.

"The EBB Program has given our children more access to explore new educational areas which broadens their view to what they would like to do as a career (coding, engineering, etc)."

- Parent of third grade student at Burnt Mills Elementary School

9 in 10

Parents said that the EBB Elementary program created an environment for their children to socialize and make new friends.

"I have noticed that [my student] has started to come out of her shell more. She is interested in socializing and working on projects with friends from EBB that she didn't used to talk to or associate with. I think that she has matured and grown a bit more independent since starting EBB."

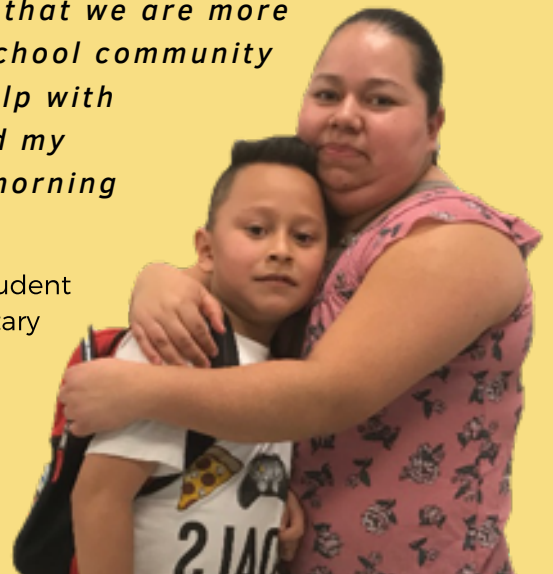
- Third grade teacher at Harmony Hills Elementary School

4 in 6

Parents said that the EBB Elementary program makes them feel more engaged with their students and school community

"My wife and I feel that we are more involved with the school community now. I come and help with the free market and my wife comes to the morning parent meetings."

- Father of third grade student at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School



NUTRITION & RECREATION

NUTRITION:

Nearly 13.9% of Montgomery County children are estimated to be food insecure, representing 33,000 students; the highest in the state of Maryland.¹

At EBBE, participants power up with a healthy, hot meal before diving into activities that stimulate creativity and grow confidence.

RECREATION:

EBBE providers design intensive activities that stimulate participants mentally and physically.

Over the course of EBBE, participants will have been introduced to 15 different enrichment opportunities. Courses include cooking, STEM, coding, karate, and music.

2,400

HOT MEALS SERVED TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS EACH WEEK IN FY17



THE NUMBER OF LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES CONTRACTED IN FY16- FY17

1. A Food Secure Montgomery- What we know now and what we can do, A 5-Year Strategic Plan. (2017). Montgomery County, MD.



The EBBE programs collaborate with school staff and local enrichment providers to offer a comprehensive approach to improve student learning and academic achievement.

Between October 2017 and April 2018, EBBE second graders at Burnt Mills and South Lake Elementary school participated in digital game-based activities provided by an EBBE partner, Speak Agent.

Speak Agent delivers digital language and academically focused lessons tailored to EBBE program needs in alignment with MCPS Curriculum 2.0 content. Between FY17-FY18, Speak Agent provided 24 digital lessons in art, physical education, reading, science & engineering, social studies, and writing.

31.2 % EBBE student gains in Reading

CHOZEN

Third Grade, Burnt Mills Elementary School



Students come to EBBE with different experiences and access to opportunities. EBBE's mission is to create environments where students dare to feel challenged and take risks. Participants of the EBBE program are able to explore a number of activity opportunities from dance and basketball to coding and language learning.

Before starting EBBE, Chozen often shied away from challenging academic work and physical activity. With a teacher referral, Chozen and her family decided that EBBE would be a great way to expose Chozen to new educational opportunities.

Chozen has blossomed. She is now always willing to take on a challenge presented to her both inside and outside the classroom. Chozen says that she loves being around EBBE students and teachers that motivate her.

Chozen has transformed that motivation into the classroom where her teachers now say that she loves challenges and even goes as far as requesting additional questions and problems that force her to think beyond. Her newfound confidence has made her excited about math. She has made improvements in state MAP-M and MAP-R academic tests.

The EBBE program also changed the way Chozen's family interacts with her school. Chozen's parents feel encouraged by EBBE to seek opportunities to volunteer for the school from field trips to cafeteria support.

"I have seen a positive change in Chozen, since she started EBB. It has given her the confidence to challenge herself and know that it's okay if you don't understand the first time. She is very excited about math (especially) and working on concepts that are at higher levels."

- Third grade teacher at Burnt Mills Elementary School





ACADEMICS & MENTORSHIP

658 

**SECOND-FIFTH GRADE PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FY17- FY18**

294 

**HOURS OF ACADEMIC
INSTRUCTION IN FY17- FY18**

1:12 

**AVERAGE TEACHER TO
STUDENT RATIO IN FY17- FY18**

EBBE academic instructions are taught by certified teachers. Over the course of a full program year, EBBE participants receive over 100 hours of additional academic instruction. EBBE teachers create academic lessons aligned with MCPS' Curriculum 2.0 with a focus on reading.

Our teacher to student ratio not only offers students the opportunity to get one-on-one support during EBBE hours, but also develop meaningful relationships with EBBE staff.

By hiring teachers that work in EBBE schools, teachers are able to transform the learning environment and develop dynamic relationships with program participants outside of the traditional school day.

BRITNEY

Fifth grade, South Lake Elementary School

At EBBE, our goal is to create opportunities for youth that prepare them for academic success and for life.

Britney came to the United States at the age of seven. Her father knew that her future depended on her ability to assimilate to life in the United States. Thanks to our partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools and Linkages to Learning programs, Britney was referred to EBBE in 2016.

Britney's father hoped that by joining EBBE, she would feel comfortable with a new language and moreover, motivated to go to school.

Britney has not missed a day since, at least not willingly. Her father says that since joining EBBE, Britney only misses program days because she is sick or has an appointment.

South Lake ES teachers say that her enthusiasm has translated into the classroom. Britney's academic scores have increased, she is excited to speak in front of a class, and is asking teachers for extra work during recess.

Those closest to her have seen an incredible transformation. Although Britney feels that EBBE has given her the tools she needs to be successful, she wants to look for ways to help her peers be successful as well, often sharing with them the different tools and strategies she gained during EBBE programming hours.

"I have seen Britney actually look forward to going to school because of EBBE. She talks to me about the things she does in [the] program and tries to teach them to me. Coming to EBBE and seeing my daughter flourish has really shown me how easy it is to learn new things and I see myself experiencing more because of her."

- Jose, parent of Britney



Britney (left) and Jose, father (right)

Every year, Montgomery County Public School students take MAP testing. The following data highlights the fall & winter RIT scores from FY17-18 for 99 EBBE third-fifth grade students that participated between FY17-FY18.

READING

82.8 percent of third grade EBBE participants showed an overall improvement in their MAP- R score.

71.8 percent of fourth grade EBBE participants showed an overall improvement in their MAP- R score.

68.2 percent of fifth grade EBBE participants showed an overall improvement in their MAP- R score



"Kimberly has made significant improvements academically. Her MAP-M score in the fall was 179 and in the winter it jumped to 207. Her MAP-R score in the fall was 166 and her winter score was 178. I cannot wait to see her continue to improve [...]"

- Fifth grade teacher at South Lake Elementary School



Friends Britney (left) and Kimberly (right)

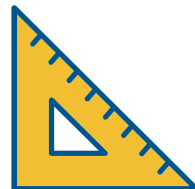
MATH

94.1 percent of second grade EBBE participants showed an overall increase in their MAP-M score.

91.4 percent of third grade EBBE participants showed an overall increase in their MAP-M score.

87.5 percent of fourth grade EBBE participants showed an overall increase in their MAP-M score.

95.5 percent of fifth grade EBBE participants showed an overall increase in their MAP-M score.



91.5 percent of South Lake EBBE participants who's raw data showed an increase in academic performance in math and/or reading.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

From families, to schools, to community

At EBBE we believe in the whole student - the whole family - the whole community. Families make a commitment to engage two hours per month in their student's school, community, or EBBE program. They are able to get involved during Fun Fridays, PTA meetings, school events, and much more.

In FY17-18 families dedicated over



8,600

**HOURS TO
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



KEVIN

Third Grade, JoAnn Leleck Elementary School

Kevin joined EBBE in 2017 when the program first started at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School. Before EBBE, those closest to him struggled to find activities for Kevin that he enjoyed and encouraged him to socialize.

Since joining EBBE, Kevin has not stopped talking! EBBE's academic and recreational activities get Kevin excited to share new ideas with his family at home. Additionally, EBBE's diverse program participants has allowed Kevin to branch out to make friends in different groups.

Even though Kevin began the year having difficulty with public speaking, because of EBBE he is showing more social skills. Many of Kevin's teacher say that EBBE has helped Kevin's anxiety with speaking and helped him improve academically. Kevin is currently above grade level in both reading and writing, but is motivated to continue improving.

Kevin's transformation has also impacted his family. Since realizing Kevin's success, his family has been motivated to participate in the school's Family Market Day and monthly school functions and events.



EBBE Staff Jasmine (left) and Kevin (right)

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

EBBE strives to create opportunities for youth to develop a number of skills including:



SELF-AWARENESS



SELF-MANAGEMENT



SOCIAL AWARENESS



RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING



RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

The EBBE program was designed to provide participants an opportunity to interact with peers and school staff in different ways that are not often possible during the academic school day.

Our holistic approach allows us to recruit teachers that have established relationships with EBBE students, work alongside school support staff that provide wrap-around services to our youth and families, as well as employ local providers that lead recreational and academic programming.

Local providers and school staff lead sessions that give students the opportunity to develop a number of skills, many of which our youth need to be successful in K-12 and beyond,

KAYDEN

Third Grade, South Lake Elementary School

Participants in the program often see their peers and teachers in a different way that is not often possible during the academic school day. For many students, EBBE has given them the opportunity to not only socialize, but learn to mediate challenging obstacles.

Kayden's teachers and EBBE staff have used EBBE programming hours for a unique approach to social and emotional development. Before joining EBBE, Kayden needed additional support learning how to cope with and manage his emotions. As a result of direct support from EBBE's after-school framework, teachers and staff, Kayden learned different skills he can use when frustrations arise.

"One thing that I have been working on with Kayden all year is controlling his anger [...] He has shared with me that he also does this with EBBE staff. I am so proud of him and he has taken a leader role in our classroom."

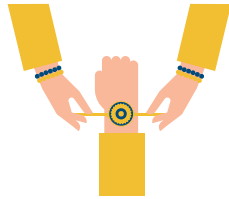
-Teacher at South Lake Elementary School



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD?

97.2%

Of program staff & teachers report that EBBE has encouraged their students to make new friends.



94.5%

Of program staff & teachers report that EBBE participants are now more likely to listen to peers.



83.3%

Of program staff & teachers report that EBBE participants are now more likely to empathize with peers.



91.7%

Of program staff & teachers report that EBBE participants are now more likely to help other students succeed on tasks.



Taken from EBBE FY17-18 Staff/ Teacher EOY Survey

Daniela is the youngest in a family of all boys. For her, having siblings often made it difficult to express herself and communicate her needs,

Since joining EBBE, Daniela's community has watched her break out of her shell. They have seen her go from a student that once separated herself from her peers to a student that is not only more confident, but seeks out ways to encourage her friends to do the same.

Many of those who have seen Daniela grow have also seen her relationships with school staff transform in the process. Now, when she sees EBBE teachers in the hallway, Daniela shows excitement and shares personal anecdotes with them,

"Being around other women [EBBE staff] and other girls her age [peers] has had a positive effect on her confidence [and] therefore her motivation in school. I have noticed a great deal of growth in Daniela. She has really come out of her shell and gotten more outgoing and social."

- Teacher at Harmony Hills Elementary School



DANIELA

Third Grade, Harmony Hills Elementary School

TRANSPORTATION & COST

680 

AFTER-SCHOOL BUS TRIPS
PROVIDED BY MCPS

38.5 

HOURS OF SAFE WALK HOME

23 

SAFE WALK HOME
VOLUNTEERS

0 

COST TO PARTICIPANTS

Montgomery County Recreation is always looking for ways to expand opportunities for youth throughout the county. Our approach throughout the department is holistic, making EBBE just that.

At EBBE, we not only ensure that programming is available, we ensure that it is accessible. Our unique platform allows us to design a variety of non-traditional activities to engage schools and communities who are less likely to participate in more traditional after-school options.

In addition to parent/ guardian pickup, EBBE participants have access to after-school bus transportation provided by MCPS. Additionally, in response to concerned residents, local high school and community volunteers are recruited to escort and provide safe routes home for EBBE participants who walk home.



SADIE

Third Grade, Harmony Hills Elementary School

Sadie has always thrived in environments where she was constantly being challenged and encouraged to think outside the box. Since she was younger, those closest to her knew that she would do well academically. Yet, transportation and cost often made it difficult for Sadie's family to find programs that would allow her to expand her learning and social skills.

EBBE has given Sadie an opportunity to gain unique learning experiences and join recreational activities that she would otherwise not have access to. Although her older sister misses her at home, Sadie is having fun at EBBE!

"EBBE has greatly impacted students and families in positive and beneficial ways including increasing student excitement around academic and enrichment activities, providing parents an after-school program at no cost, and providing students with all around support."

- Teacher at Harmony Hills Elementary School

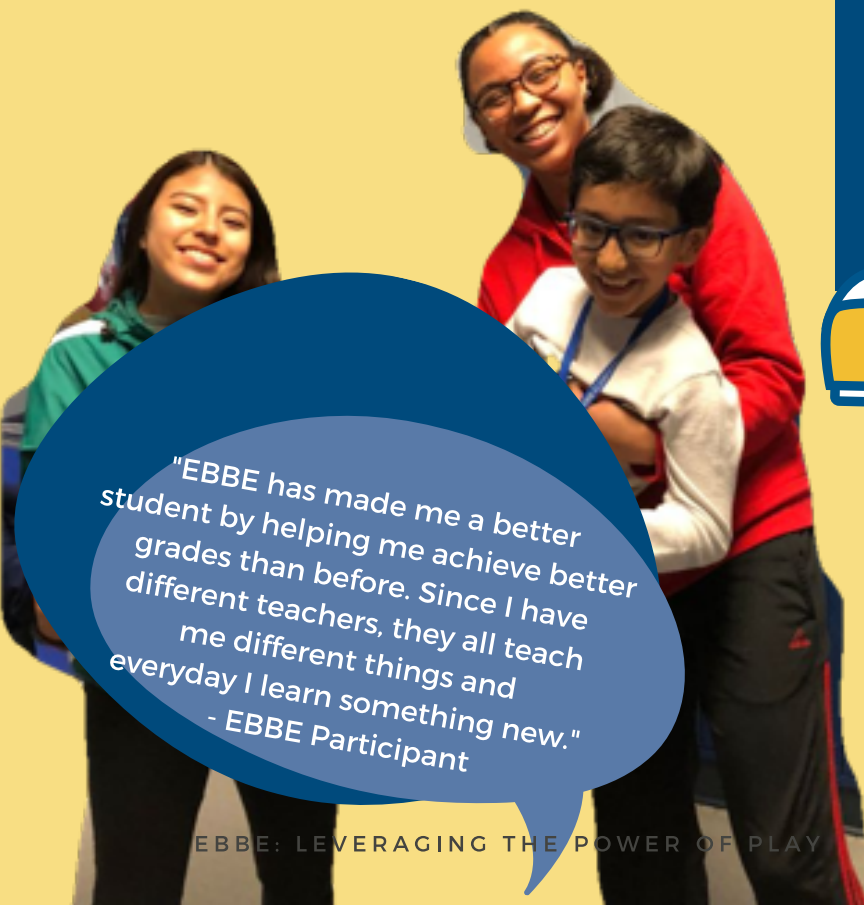


Excel
Beyond the
Bell

Elementary



"My son and daughter always wanted to do activities after-school but transportation and cost were the issue. With EBB we don't have to worry about that and the have the opportunity to do really fun things that they would not otherwise do."
- EBBE Parent



"EBBE has made me a better student by helping me achieve better grades than before. Since I have different teachers, they all teach me different things and everyday I learn something new."
- EBBE Participant

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gislene Tasayco

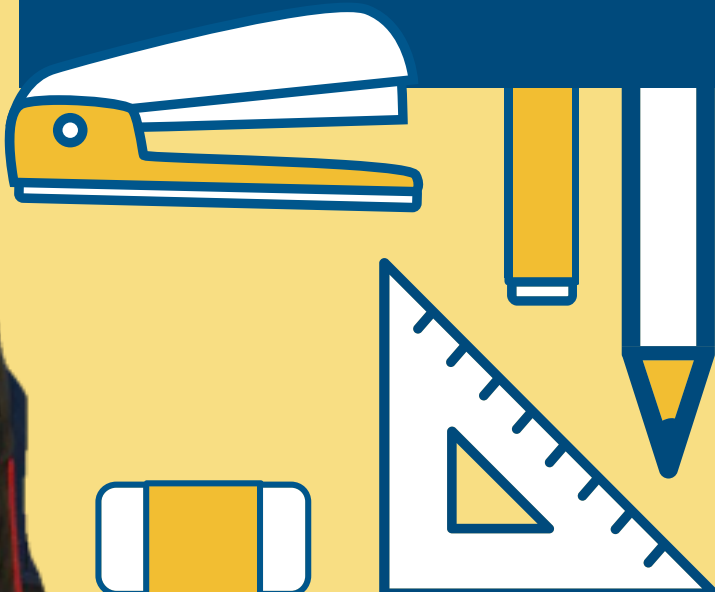
Gislene immigrated to Montgomery County, MD from Lima, Peru at the age of three. Growing up in Montgomery County as a low-income, undocumented, Latina, she believes that after-school and summer learning programs provided a lifeline for her.



Programs like EBBE provided opportunities for her to expand her English language learning skills, explore career fields, develop the soft skills she needed to advance in the workforce, and gave her parents peace of mind.

Gislene is a proud first-generation college graduate, graduating from the Montgomery College Scholars Program and Trinity Washington University, summa cum laude.

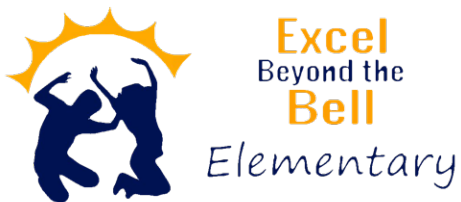
Gislene helped launch the EBBE program at South Lake Elementary serving as site director for the first two years. She is currently the Senior Associate for Education & Expanded Learning at the National League of Cities where she is working with municipal leaders to expand equitable educational opportunities for youth across the country. She also serves on the Educational Enrichment Committee for the City of Gaithersburg and is a member of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council Board of Directors.





OUR VISION

Ensuring that young people are productive, healthy,
and connected during out-of-school time.



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