

Boys & Girls Club of America 2609 Fairfield Avenue Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Dear Boys and Girls Club,

I am David Tijerina, the current principal of Fairfield Elementary School, one of many schools in the Fort Wayne Community Schools system. In a year filled with uncertainty and massive change due to a global pandemic, it is often difficult to see some of the positives that we have been a part of.

Once such positive is our new relationship with the Boys and Girls Club. In a normal year, Fairfield may have as many as seventy students participating in the program. With the restrictions on large numbers of students gathering due to health protocols, the number that the Boys and Girls club would have been able to accommodate was 120 students from all the surrounding schools. This would have left many of our students, and families, without the additional afterschool support that is much needed.

Fairfield was approached with the idea of the Boys and Girls club coming to our facility and running a site campus solely for Fairfield students. This would allow many more of our students to be involved with the program. Currently, following health guidelines, there are 40 Fairfield students and families who are able to participate in the program on a daily basis.

Also, it is important to note that the Boys and Girls Club is more than an afterschool daycare program. They are deliberate with their programming and offer academic support as well as guiding the students through much needed social and emotional conversations. The fact that they are in our building has also allowed us to be deliberate with our conversations on what the needs are for our shared students.

For all of that, we would like to say Thank You, Gracias, and ကျေးရူးတင်ပါတယ်. The Boys and Girls Club is helping so many students with such diverse backgrounds; we are proud to be working closely with them fulfilling the same mission, the care and advancement of the next generation.

David Tijerina Jr.