

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Middle Fork Elementary Students Shine a Light on the Benefits of Afterschool

The AlphaBEST Education afterschool program at Middle Fork will host a Reading Night to showcase the diverse ways afterschool programs support student learning.

WALKERTOWN, NC – The AlphaBEST Education afterschool program at Middle Fork Elementary School will be hosting a Reading Night on Thursday, October 23 for *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide effort to celebrate the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The school walls will be adorned with over 300 student-decorated light bulbs, a hallmark of the annual event.

To begin the celebration, students in the AlphaBEST afterschool program will perform a song they are learning in American Sign Language (ASL). It gives students a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool program. For the literacy component, families will be divided into four groups, and guests from the local community will read their favorite children’s book to each group. Refreshments will be provided and each family will receive a free book before leaving the event.

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, [*Lights On Afterschool*](#) underscores the need to invest in afterschool programs, which offer students the chance to hone their skills and discover their passions. Only 12% of North Carolina students participate in afterschool programs, and many are missing out on the benefits of quality afterschool programming.

“Quality afterschool programs keep students safe, promote learning and healthy development, and enrich student experiences through hands-on, engaging activities,” said AlphaBEST Site Manager, Patty Edens. “At AlphaBEST, we provide opportunities for students to expand their personal horizons and meet their full potential.”

AlphaBEST’s Reading Night will be held in the Middle Fork Elementary School gym on Thursday, October 23 at 6:30 PM. For more information, contact Patty Edens at middleforkelementary@alphabest.org or (336) 596-3721.

About AlphaBEST Education, Inc.

AlphaBEST Education, Inc. provides after school educational programs that expand and enrich student experiences through a unique modular curriculum and teaching approaches that act as catalysts for student and school improvement.