



THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH

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Giving kids some 'power'

Life is not all fun and games at the Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln County. While the organization seeks to be a fun and safe place for kids to hang out, the club is also becoming a great place for doing homework.

Each day after school, those enrolled in the new Power Hour program can finish their homework or receive tutoring and other assistance. Computers are also available to assist the students.

Matt Fosket, program director for the Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln County, said he hopes this program will help to motivate kids to get their homework done and not procrastinate.



From left, Brittany Slack, Tanisha Malcom and Jade Gray work on school work with Boys & Girls Club teen director Deanna Anderson (second right) on Tuesday afternoon during Power Hour.

"It's something that they are going to do anyway," Fosket said. "They have to get it done at some point, so this just encourages them to get it done right away after school."

Fosket said the club has offered homework assistance in the past. But this year they received a grant from the JC Penney Afterschool Fund to join the national program known as Power Hour.

The grant will cover the cost to get the program started. Fosket said the students must be a member of Boys and Girls Club in order to sign up.

Participants in the Power Hour will receive a point for every 15 minutes that they are doing their homework. Those points can be used to purchase items at the club's Sweet Shop.

Fosket and staff member Deanna Anderson both have teaching degrees, so they will be available to help students during the Power Hour. However, Fosket said they will be looking for additional help.

"We will continue to seek out more volunteers to come in and assist with that now that we have gotten this grant and are expanding the program," Fosket said.

He noted anyone can join the Power Hour program. However, only the first 25 kids who sign up will receive a \$50 gift card that can be used for school supplies or clothes.

There is no cost for the program, but Fosket noted that students must be a member of the club to enroll in Power Hour. The program is offered each day that school is in session, starting at 4 p.m.

Fosket said they already have several kids that have enrolled in the program.

"We do still have more openings, but they are filling up fast," he added.