

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 has fundraisers for new playground

By Emily Graham Staff Writer Sep 20, 2021



DAVID MCKEOWN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 in Mar Lin is working toward replacing older playground equipment, shown Monday, at the Maple Avenue campus with new gear designed to enhance sensory, communication, and social skills.

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 is working toward building a new playground at the Maple Avenue campus with upcoming fundraisers.

Debra Arnold, director of special education, said she hopes to see the project complete before the beginning of next school year.

"If the kids could come back after the summer to a new playground, that would be amazing," Arnold said.

The playground will feature equipment designed for children with special needs, including wheelchair accessibility and sensory areas for children with autism, built in the existing basketball area.

"We have students from ages 3 to 21, so it will have a variety of items to meet their needs," Arnold said.

Currently, Arnold said the IU in Mar Lin has only one remaining piece of playground equipment along with plastic toys, as everything else became worn out with age.

Having a playground designed to enhance sensory, communication and social skills will be a great benefit for students, Arnold said.

"Being able to play with another child or friend is a big step, especially for our younger or nonverbal students," Arnold said. "They will be learning a lot of skills while they're out there."

Arnold said \$15,000 has been raised so far. The playground will cost \$150,000, not including the cost of installation.

The IU is having a fundraiser with Kowalonek's Kielbasy Shop of Shenandoah this week and with Wheel restaurant locations in Pottsville and Tamaqua on Oct. 7.

Donations can be made at any time on the IU's website or sent to the IU at 17 Maple Ave, Pottsville, PA 17901 or the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation at 216 S Centre St. Pottsville, PA 17901.

Read the article on The Republican Herald's website:

https://www.republicanherald.com/news/education/schuylkill-intermediate-unit-29-has-fundraisers-for-new-playground/article_55a2a9c9-1280-5c82-bcda-d7839184b313.html