



P.A.R.K. NEWS



Programmed After-school Recreation for Kids!

SEPTEMBER 2016

RECREATION SUPERVISOR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2016-2017 P.A.R.K. Program!

The goals of our program are to provide a safe, secure, enriching and affordable place to be after school. The P.A.R.K. program is not intended to be an extension of school. We feel that after a long day of highly structured schoolwork, children need an opportunity to choose from a variety of activities that are planned to be fun and enriching while still allowing for spontaneity.

Attendance

Attendance is taken each day for safety and security. If your child is ill and will not be at the program or if you will pick up your child early, it is your responsibility to call the voice mailbox of your particular site before 2:15 p.m. and leave a message informing the P.A.R.K. staff of the absence. If you fail to report your child's absence on the P.A.R.K. voice mail, the recreation supervisor will assess a tracking fee of \$20 on each occurrence. Please see the handbook for more information.

Monthly Tuition

All tuition payments are due on the 15th of the month for the following month. If the 15th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the tuition is due on the first business day following the 15th. **Tuition payments must be accompanied by a tuition payment slip.**

End-of-the-day Pickup

Upon arrival for picking up your child(ren) please make certain you sign them out and inform a P.A.R.K. leader of your child's departure from the program.

It is important that you enter our program with the anticipation of your child's enthusiasm to start sharing their day with you and giving them the opportunity to stop what activity they are engaged in and allow time for them to transition for departure.

The children are anxious to share their experiences of the day with parents. We encourage you to enter the site with all cell phone calls ended, so you are ready to be attentive to your child at pickup time. Your child will appreciate your willingness to listen and it makes for a smooth and safe transition for your child and the P.A.R.K. staff to acknowledge your arrival and departure for the day.

P.A.R.K. Site Cell Phone Numbers

- Bolton Crossing 614-981-0779
- Buckeye Woods 614-519-4664
- J.C. Sommer 614-571-9620
- Monterey 614-571-9622
- Richard Ave. 614-571-9623
- Highland Park 614-571-9624

Parent Handbook

Please be sure to review the 2016-2017 P.A.R.K. Parent Handbook to learn the philosophy, goals and policies governing the P.A.R.K. program. All program information, policies and procedures are outlined in the handbook for your convenience and to help your child have a positive experience during the after-school hours. You can also access the handbook online at www.grovecityohio.gov/parks-and-recreation/preschool-youth.

Parent Table

Please take time to check the parent table at your P.A.R.K. site when you sign your child(ren) out for the day. There may be hand-outs or other pertinent information for you regarding the P.A.R.K. program or happenings in the community. Take a glance at the parent board to see what choices of activities your child participated in for the day.



The City of Grove City • Parks and Recreation Department

P.A.R.K. Recreation Supervisors: Megan Williams and Amanda Gehres

614-277-3050 • GroveCityOhio.gov • facebook.com/GroveCityOhio • twitter.com/GroveCityOhio • instagram.com/GroveCityOhio

P.A.R.K. Leaders

Please take the time to get to know your child's P.A.R.K. leaders. We have a great group of staff members. Each P.A.R.K. leader fills a different niche in our program with varying interests, hobbies, ideals, educational backgrounds and levels of experience!

We are proud of their hard work, commitment and dedication to the P.A.R.K. program.

P.A.R.K. Staff Training

All P.A.R.K. leaders are required to be certified in CPR, first aid, recognition and prevention of child abuse, and identification of communicable diseases. P.A.R.K. leaders also attend various trainings throughout the school year as we partner with organizations such as Action for Children, Afterschool Counts, Educational Council and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Service.

If Your Child Has a Known Medical Condition

If a medical condition is listed on your child's Emergency Medical Form, a *Child Medical/Physical Care Plan Form* must be filled out to inform and train the P.A.R.K. leaders and provide them with all necessary instructions to properly care for your child. If you need to fill out this form, please see a P.A.R.K. leader.

Please Help Us Help You

It is very important to us to provide the best care for your school-age child(ren) in the after school hours. We like to see each child be successful and have a positive experience in our program, enjoying their time after school with a variety of activities and excellent social opportunities.

Please let the P.A.R.K. staff know if your child is struggling with anything that may affect his/her behavior or demeanor as these may be recognizable during program hours. In turn, it is in the best interest of the child that P.A.R.K. staff share with you any issues or concerns that arise during the program that will help you and your child find a remedy and grow from the experience. Please know we are interested in hearing any of the good things that are happening in your child's life so that we can be excited for them as well!

Unplanned Required Early Pickup of Child

On rare occasions, P.A.R.K. staff or program supervisors may contact you regarding an immediate need for you to pick up your child because of illness, injury or other circumstances that jeopardize the safety of your child or other participants. It is imperative that you have arrangements in place to adhere to this request within a reasonable amount of time.

If you are unable to pick up your child in such a circumstance, it is your responsibility to have arrangement in place for an alternate person available to do so.

Please be mindful of the stress this can and may place on your child, the other P.A.R.K. participants and the staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding and for taking responsibility during unexpected situations.

Hand Washing

Hand washing is an easy way to prevent infection. As you teach your children to get in the habit of washing their hands, it is also a good idea to help them understand when to do so. Remember children touch many objects, surfaces and people throughout the day, accumulating a lot of germs on their hands. They can infect themselves by touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Although the P.A.R.K. staff allows and encourages frequent times for hand washing, a great time to remind them to wash their hands is when you are getting ready to exit the P.A.R.K. site for the day. Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness.

Healthy Snacks

The P.A.R.K. program provides snack time, and all children are required to bring a packed snack to the program. It is best to pack your child's snack separately from lunch items so he/she knows the difference.

The children are hungry after school, and we encourage you to be mindful of healthy options. Fresh fruits are an easy after-school snack as they require very little preparation. Keep a variety of in-season fruit choices as well as dried and freeze-dried fruits. Other ideas include peanut butter and jelly, raw vegetables with dip, granola or trail mixes, lunch meats and cheeses, crackers, pretzels, raisins, yogurt or a mini bagel. We do not allow children to have pop.

Let Your Children Know You Care

If your child is anxious about school, send personal notes in a lunch box or book bag. Reinforce the ability to cope. Children absorb their parents' anxiety, so model optimism and confidence for your child. Let your child know that it is natural to be a little nervous any time you start something new, but that your child will be just fine once he or she becomes familiar with classmates, the teacher and school routine.