



SOCC Afterschool Program – Woodman Park School Parent Handbook

Program Overview

Mission and Vision

The Seymour Osman Community Center (SOCC) is a private non-profit that is affiliated with the Dover Housing Authority. Its mission is to provide youth and families with a better chance through helping children and adults by providing educational skills, parental support and life experiences so children will be able to better compete in life. We do this by focusing on the development of grit & work ethic, conflict resolution skills, clear goals, and confidence. The SOCC receives funding through the federal Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to support academic centered programming.

Program Goals

1. Participating students will improve performance in core subjects of Math and Reading.
2. Parents/guardians of participating students will increase their level of involvement in their children's learning.
3. Participating students will increase leadership and responsibility.

Program Administration

Key staff roles and responsibilities:

Stacey Kearns, Director of Family Services – Oversees programs and staff at the SOCC

Samantha de Jong, 21st Century Project Coordinator – Coordinates SOCC Afterschool Program at Woodman Park School site

Homework Lab Leaders – Coordinate Homework Lab classrooms. Usually school-day staff

Enrichment Lab Leaders – Plan and facilitate Enrichment Lab programs. A combination of school-day staff and community members

Youth Development Coordinators – Support Homework Lab and recreational activities. UNH and high school students

The Seymour Osman Community Center is managed by a Board of Directors.

Location and Hours

The SOCC is headquartered at the Seymour Osman Community Center (40 Hampshire Circle). Afterschool programming takes place at Woodman Park Elementary School (11 Towle Avenue). Program hours are 3:05 – 6:00 pm Monday through Friday during the school year. The program follows the school district holiday calendar. Summer programming takes place at the SOCC building. The Summer Program schedule will be announced by the end of May.

Procedures

Registration and Program Fees (*Refer to Registration Form*)

Registration for the afterschool program year begins in June. When slots are filled, any additional potential enrollees are put on a wait list.

In order to help offset program costs, a nominal fee based on household Free & Reduced Lunch status is requested. Payment will be made monthly and program does not provide invoices in advance of payments. Payment is due by the 10th of each month. Bills will be delivered to parents with outstanding charges. Scholarships and alternative payment plans are available to those experiencing difficulty.

Schedule of Program Day

3:05	Students are dismissed from their school-day classroom and move to their Homework Lab classrooms, where they have snack and work on homework	Various classrooms
4:00	Students transition from Homework Lab to enrichment programs; Kindergarten students stay with their grade level cohort during this time	Various classrooms
5:00	Students assist with clean up and participate in free choice time while waiting to be called for dismissal.	Various classrooms
6:00	Dismissal ends-	

The SOCC at Woodman Park strives to achieve adult-to-child ratios of 1:10 or smaller, but that ratio may vary according to the needs of specific programs, never exceeding 1:15.

COVID-19

While at Woodman Park School, SOCC will adhere to all policies, practices, and protocols as established by the Dover School District. This includes, but is not limited to, masking, cleaning, distancing, and maintaining cohorts.

Behavior Policy

Students are not allowed to swear, touch each other inappropriately, hurt, or threaten another person or be disrespectful to volunteers, staff, other students, bus drivers, or visitors. Students should know the rules (Be Safe, Be Caring, Be Respectful, Be Here and Ready), which are the same as Woodman Park School's rules, and staff will frequently remind students of the rules.

When rules are broken, staff will use reminding or redirecting language to get the student to choose more appropriate behavior. If the behavior continues, staff will give consequences that may include (depending on the nature of the rule violation) a loss of a privilege, an apology to the person who was hurt, or cleaning up a mess that was made. The program's behavior management strategies align with the Responsive Classroom curriculum used during the school

day. Individualized behavior plans may be developed, with support of school day staff, to meet the unique needs of certain students and align with school day behavior plans.

At any time during the program day, staff may call to request that parents pick up their child early if the student's behavior is unmanageable. Any staff member or volunteer may issue a verbal/written warning for rules violations, but it is the Project Coordinator who is responsible for tracking behavior and ultimately issuing suspensions from field trips and/or programming. No suspensions will occur without a discussion occurring between the Project Coordinator and Director. The Project Coordinator is responsible for communicating with parents about behavior issues.

Students who demonstrate that they cannot function appropriately and independently and/or who pose a threat to other students may be dismissed permanently if their behavior prevents the appropriate operation of the Afterschool Program. As well, unsafe behavior in the SOCC van may lead to suspension from the van or from the program. Staff may consult with parents, school administration, police, case manager or others involved with the student's life before permanently dismissing. The reason for suspension will be documented in an incident report and the report will specify why the student is not appropriate for the program. Parents/guardians will be given a copy of the reason for dismissal and a copy of the report must be retained in the student's file.

Sign-in / Sign-out Protocol

Staff will mark attendance sheets each day to note who is present. An adult or older sibling will sign out each student each day. Students may only be released from the SOCC Afterschool Program to their custodial parents or individuals listed under alternative pick-up on the registration form. Parents may add or delete alternative pick-up people at any time.

If a student attends school but is not planning to attend afterschool, the child's parent must contact the school or send a note to the school-day teacher. SOCC works very closely with school day staff; if we do not receive written or verbal permission from a parent/guardian for an alternative plan, the student will stay at the afterschool program. If that communication does not occur and the student does not arrive at the afterschool program as staff expect, SOCC staff will call that child's parent. Any requests to add a day must be made with SOCC staff as this impacts staffing ratios.

All staff are required to check the identification (i.e., driver's license) of anyone who is unfamiliar to them before dismissing a student. If a person who has not been designated by the custodial parent comes to pick up a student, the student will not be released until the parent has been contacted and approves the pick-up person.

Attendance

SOCC programming focuses on supporting students in their school day academic endeavors through offering homework support and academic based enrichment programming. For students to gain the most from attending program, it is important that they attend consistently.

All students are expected to attend program at least 50% of the days that they are signed up to attend. Students are also expected to stay until at least 5:00 pm so they can fully engage in their enrichment programming.

When SOCC has a waitlist, a student who is frequently absent from program or picked up early will have the option of correcting their attendance or allowing another student to have their spot in program.

While one-time changes to dismissal plans can be communicated to a student's teacher or the school office, all requests to add a day and long-term changes to schedules (adding or dropping days) must be communicated to program administrators.

Students must be present at school at the end of the school day (3:05 pm) in order to attend SOCC for the day.

Transportation

The SOCC provides transportation after programming for those who need it. Transportation is also provided for all off-site activities. In such instances, students ride in a school bus or in the SOCC's 15-passenger van. Operation of the SOCC van is done in accordance with state standards and best practices, including:

- Proper use of age-appropriate safety restraints
- Child supervision during transport, including never leaving a child unattended in the vehicle
- Maintenance of First Aid kit and emergency supplies
- Employing regular preventive maintenance
- Refraining from playing loud music while children are in the vehicle
- Refraining from use of a cell phone while the vehicle is in motion

While in the vehicle, children are expected to stay seated, use their seatbelts, and maintain "indoor voices."

Field Trips

The permission granted by parents on the registration form covers all field trips associated with the program. Unless required by the destination or by a program partner, no other permission slip needs to be signed by parents for field trips. Notices of field trips will be sent home to parents as the date of the trip approaches.

Cancellation Due to Weather or Other Emergency

When the school announces a snow day, the SOCC Afterschool Program will also close. If there is school but the afterschool program must close because of deteriorating weather conditions or because of some other emergency, the announcement will be posted on www.wmur.com and parents will be contacted via email and text message to obtain alternate dismissal plans.

Parent Responsibilities

The SOCC views parents as essential partners in making their children’s time in the afterschool program a positive, productive experience. While staff recognize that parents have numerous priorities that demand attention, it is important that parents meet the obligations described below.

Among the responsibilities of program parents:

- Providing accurate, up-to-date contact information for everyone on their child’s “pick-up list”
- Regularly checking provided email addresses and phone numbers for communications regarding program
- Paying their bill on time
- Communicating with staff when issues arise that may affect their child’s participation in the afterschool program
- Communicating with staff when they are having difficulty paying monthly tuition
- Ensuring that children are available to participate fully in their activities, programs, and performances
- Participating in fundraisers and volunteer service to support the afterschool program to the extent that they are able
- Attending family events and youth performances associated with the afterschool program
- Arriving on-time and sober to dismiss their student
- Model interactions with staff as are expected of their children during program

Parents will receive important program updates and other information in a variety of ways:

- Announcements sent out by e-mail, text message, and distributed in hard copy
- Monthly announcements of scheduled Family Engagement Nights
- Phone calls and face-to-face interactions
- Notices on the SOCC’s Facebook page

It is imperative that parents review the information presented to them.

Important Contact Information

Woodman Park School www.dover.k12.nh.us	603-516-6700	Dover Housing Authority	603-742-5804
SOCC www.dhasocc.org	603-749-6692	Goodwin Community Health Center	603-749-2346
<i>Director</i> skearns@doverhousingauthority.org		Dover Police Department	603-742-4646
<i>Project Coordinator</i> soccadmin@socclab.org	603-833-8971	NH Rapid Response Behavioral Health Hotline	988 or 833-710-6477
Strafford County Community Action Program	603-516-8140	Child Care Resource and Referral Network	603-516-1191
Community Partners	603-516-9300	DHHS office - Rochester	603-332-9130
City of Dover Human Services	603-516-6500	NAMI NH	800-242-6264

