



# ***2024-2025 FAMILY HANDBOOK***

## **Medfield Afterschool Program, Inc.**

P.O. Box 18 Medfield, MA 02052

[www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com)

### **Main Office**

17 Elm Street, MAP building, behind the  
Wheelock School

(508) 359-0003

Executive Director: Annette Gallagher

Email: [annette.map@comcast.net](mailto:annette.map@comcast.net)

Billing Questions: Kelly Meisner

Email: [mapofficebilling@gmail.com](mailto:mapofficebilling@gmail.com)

### **Jump Start, Kindergarten & First Grade Program**

160 North Street, MAP building next to the  
Memorial School

(508) 359-2165

Program Director: Meghan Jackson

Email: [meghan.map@comcast.net](mailto:meghan.map@comcast.net)

### **Second & Third Grade Program**

17 Elm Street, MAP building, behind the  
Wheelock School

(508) 359-8513

Program Director: Alex Sakash

Email: [Alex.23map@gmail.com](mailto:Alex.23map@gmail.com)

### **Fourth – Sixth Grade Program**

124 North Street, in the Pfaff Center, corner of  
North St. & Dale St.

(508) 359-2168

Program Director: Kurt Jackson

Email: [kurt14.map@gmail.com](mailto:kurt14.map@gmail.com)

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PROGRAM  
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## INTRODUCTION TO MAP

Welcome to the Medfield Afterschool Program (MAP). The information contained in this handbook is designed to inform you of policies, procedures, and routines in order to initiate and maintain ongoing constructive communication between families and MAP. Up to date information can be found on our website: [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com)

### **History of MAP**

MAP was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989 by concerned working families in need of child care when the Needham YMCA closed its after school program in Medfield. Initially, there were 17 children enrolled in the program and it was housed in the Memorial School cafeteria. MAP leased the space from the School Department for \$1. Parent volunteers cleaned up the cafeteria (which had been used for storage) and solicited donations for materials, supplies and games from families and businesses. MAP continues to rely on both parents/guardians and concerned citizens to help administer, fund, and support MAP's commitment to provide quality child care to children residing in Medfield and enrolled in preschool and kindergarten through sixth grade. The program is fully licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care which is required by law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In 1990, there were 26 children enrolled. Today, MAP enrolls approximately 350 students from 270 families at three facilities, and employs between 25 and 30 educators & staff.

Over the years, Medfield school building usage has changed and MAP facilities have changed with it. During a reconfiguration of the Memorial School, MAP moved from there to the Middle School. MAP built its first modular classroom in 1998 at the Memorial School after the School Department requested MAP extend its kindergarten coverage to include both morning and afternoon. This modular building also housed the first graders, while the rest of the MAP students remained at the Middle School.

In 1999, the second and third graders were moved from the Middle School to a classroom at Wheelock. In 2000, MAP began to lease space from the Park and Recreation department for the fourth and fifth graders, which was adjacent to the Dale Street School, providing much needed relief on the space at the Middle School.

In 2002, the Memorial School underwent construction and the MAP modular building was moved to the Wheelock School. The kindergartners and first graders were housed in this modular building at Wheelock while the second and third graders remained in the MAP classroom at Wheelock.

By 2003, the Memorial School construction was complete. MAP built a second modular building at the Memorial School and the kindergartners and first graders moved back to this site. The second and third graders moved out of the Wheelock classroom and into the modular building at Wheelock. That year, MAP also implemented a Kindergarten extension program to operate in the modular at Wheelock to offset the growth in the number of kindergarten families needing care. This program ran successfully for ten years but enrollment in the Medfield Public schools decreased, therefore, MAP was able to accommodate all families at the K-1 site.

In 2014, MAP continued to grow and change to meet the needs of the families in our community. When the Medfield Public schools increased the number of Full Day Kindergarten classes, MAP started the Jump Start program (an enrichment program for children who are 4 & 5 years of age). September of 2020 MAP transformed its programming from after school to offering full days of remote learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In March 2021, as the schools returned students grade by grade back to in-person learning, MAP resumed our after-school programming on a smaller scale, and was able to reinstate our Jump Start Program.

Since 2021, MAP continues to transition back towards our usual programming, while remaining committed to the health and safety of the children, teachers and families.

In 2024, due to the increasing need for after school child care in the community, MAP increased it's licensing to accommodate more children at each program location.

MAP has a long history of working with the schools and responding to community needs. MAP is fiscally prudent, operating on a balanced budget and keeping tuition affordable.

*We want to express our pride in and commitment to the continuing excellence and growth of MAP and hope you will become involved and share our enthusiasm.*

### **Mission Statement**

To create enriching opportunities for pre-school and school age children in a stimulating and nurturing environment.

### **Philosophy & Program Purpose**

Since the before and after school period represents a major portion of a child's free time, MAP is designed to provide children freedom of choice within a structured environment. MAP offers various activities to enhance individual children's interest, talents, and values. The program will foster each child's need for relaxation, quiet time, an environment for homework, and a supportive atmosphere during this period.

### **Inclusion and Non-Discrimination**

At MAP we celebrate every child and every family. MAP does not discriminate in providing service to children and their families on the basis of sex, race, religion, cultural heritage, national origin, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital, or economic status provided that the program can meet the needs of child.

### **Organizational Structure**

The MAP Board of Directors assists in the administration of the program. For 2024-2025, the Board consists of the following Members: Lisa Tello, Kate Mombourquette, Kara Neymeyr, Mary Holtz, Courtney Cannata, Jacqueline Doe, Jenna Breen, Beth Keeley, Amy Burke, Meg Parillo, Meghan Ship and (TBD).

**Executive Director: Annette Gallagher**

Annette Gallagher, Executive Director, reports to the President of the MAP Board. Health and safety issues are reported to MAP's Health Consultant.

As Executive Director, Annette Gallagher is in charge of the overall operations of the program, Program Directors, Coordinators, Educators, and any office support staff.

In the event of the Executive Director's absence, the Program Directors or Lead Educators or

Coordinators of each program would be in charge. The Program Directors are in charge of their individual programs, the Lead Educators and the Educators at their program.

***Jump Start, Kindergarten & First Grade Program – Memorial School Site:***

Program Director: Meghan Jackson

Lead Educator, Jump Start & Kindergarten Coordinator: Kim McKellick

Lead Educator AM Jump Start & Kindergarten: Trish Pepper-Foley

***Second & Third Grade Program – Wheelock School Site:***

Program Director: Alex Sakash

Lead Educator: Jack Bodozian

***MAP @ the PFAFF – Fourth –Sixth Grade Program: Pfaff Center***

Program Director: Kurt Jackson

Lead Educator: Eric Adams

MAP educators are qualified professionals with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Educator's and Director's degrees include Elementary or Early Childhood Education, School Age Care, Recreation, Physical Education, Drama, Art, Music, Psychology, etc.

All educators are trained in First Aid, CPR, and Medication Administration. Throughout the year, the MAP educators are required to attend professional development trainings on a variety of school age topics relating to programming and quality of care that we provide to the MAP families.

In compliance with the Department of Early Education and Care, MAP conducts the following on all employees prior to hire and on all current employees at their discretion, but at least every 3 years: Background Record Check, a fingerprint-based national and state criminal history database check, a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) check, a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check, and a National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) check, and an out of state check for those living in different states during the last 5 years.

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

MAP's goal is to provide a quality program. We strive to establish a safe, supportive, relaxed environment where a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs can be met. To accomplish this, a few of the program goals are as follows:

- A. To help children establish an atmosphere of respect for others and self.
- B. To assist children in developing self-control and a clear understanding of the expectations in the after-school environment.
- C. To foster an environment that offers activities children might participate in at home.
- D. To provide an environment where children develop an enthusiasm for learning, exploring, and creating through the use of play, activities, and exploration.
- E. To provide ample opportunities for indoor and outdoor time.
- F. To support parents/guardians/caregivers and encourage their involvement while building open, honest communication.
- G. To assist children in becoming independent and responsible through self-directed and individual activities.

H. To help children learn appropriate alternatives to angry and aggressive behaviors.

### **Drop Off, Pick Up & Family Involvement**

Everyone entering the MAP buildings or space for dropping off and/or picking up their child should have identification, as we will ask for it until we get to know you.

Families must notify their child's program via email or phone if there is a pick-up change. If emailing, please make sure you receive confirmation that we received the information. In addition, please let us know if there is anyone who is NEVER authorized to pick up. In such cases, MAP must have copies of any custody agreements, court orders, and or restraining orders that pertain to the child.

MAP strives to foster good communication between parent/guardian and educators so that each child receives the individual attention needed. If you wish to talk with the Program Director or other educators, calling ahead and setting up a time is advisable. Newsletters, sign up forms, etc. can be found on our website: [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com) *Please remember to notify MAP of any changes in your work telephone numbers, change of jobs, emergency numbers, email addresses, and authorizations.*

Progress reports are sent home at mid-year and the end of the year.

Conferences will be provided upon request of the educators or the parent/guardian to discuss concerns, issues, a child's current development, etc. During conferences, educators, parent/guardians, and the child, when appropriate, may all be asked to participate in the problem-solving process.

### **Enrollment Procedure**

All families interested in enrolling a child in MAP are encouraged to visit the MAP website at [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com) or to contact the program to set up a tour and review program policies with the Executive Director or Program Director.

Children may be enrolled for one or more days per week. The options available for enrollment are:

#### **Jump Start MAP at the Memorial Site:**

- Morning Jump Start MAP – 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- Afternoon Jump Start MAP - 11:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Full Day Jump Start MAP - 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

#### **Kindergarten & First Grade Program at Memorial Site:**

- Morning Kindergarten/PM MAP: K dismissal until 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, or 6:00 pm
- Afternoon Kindergarten/AM MAP: 8:30 am until afternoon kindergarten.
- Afternoon Kindergarten: Dismissal until 4:30 pm or 6:00 pm.
- Full Day Kindergarten or First Grade: Dismissal to 6:00 pm.

#### **First Grade – Sixth Grade:**

- Dismissal to 6:00PM.

To start the enrollment process, a completed enrollment form along with a \$50 registration fee should be sent to MAP (P.O. Box 18 Medfield, MA 02052). If the requested days are not available for your child in their particular program you can elect to be put on a wait list, in which MAP will notify you

once the day(s) you have requested open up or at the Executive Director's discretion. If you elect not to wait for your requested days, your \$50 registration fee will be returned. \*Please note: it may take up to two weeks to process your enrollment.

A notification of acceptance into the program will be followed by a confirmation letter and a request for a refundable two-week tuition deposit to hold your spot. Once we receive your tuition deposit and prior to attendance in the program, MAP requires the completion of Child Information Forms. These forms are available on our website, or paper copies are available at your request. **MAP MUST have these completed forms prior to your child's attendance.**

**Tuition Deposit Guidelines:** If you are electing to make changes to your child or children's day(s) of attendance or to withdraw your child from MAP prior to the beginning of the school year, MAP will adhere to the following tuition deposit guidelines:

- 100% refundable if MAP is notified in writing (email accepted) by June 15
- 75% refundable if we are notified in writing by July 15
- 50% refundable if we are notified in writing by August 15
- Non-refundable after August 15 *and families are responsible for the first tuition installment.*
- MAP does not make schedule changes between August 15 and September 15.
- After September 15, MAP requires a two-week advance written notice should you wish to add, drop or change your scheduled days or special sign-up days, as well as withdraw from the program.
- Tuition deposits will be refunded when families leave the program, after receiving your written notification, adhering to the tuition policies, and once your account is paid in full.

### **Re-Enrollment Procedure and Transition Plan**

Re-Enrollment for children currently in the program begins in the early spring. The re-enrollment forms will be emailed to you and placed on our website: [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com). Along with the re-enrollment form a \$50 registration fee is due (\$30 additional for each sibling).

Re-enrollment is at the Program's discretion; however, priority may be given to:

- Those currently enrolled and re-registering prior to MAP deadlines.
- Those enrolled in MAP during the previous year and utilizing the full day (*staying past 2:30 pm*).
- Siblings of families with a current enrollee.
- Families whose children could not be accommodated during the previous year and want MAP in the following grade or had stayed until 2:30 p.m. in our kindergarten programs.

Children re-enrolling will be confirmed for their same day(s)/schedule in MAP for the following year (to the best of our ability). Changing your scheduled days for the following year will be granted in the event space is available. MAP does its best to accommodate schedule changes. All schedule changes must be given to MAP in writing.

With written notification, families may request that their registration fee be returned in the event space does not open up at MAP for their child to attend. Families wishing to continue waiting for space to open up in the following school year/following grade must notify Annette Gallagher, the Executive Director. Please be aware that turning down space when it becomes available, will result in their child being moved to the bottom of the list.

MAP is conveniently located at or near each of the Medfield Public Schools. Children enrolled in MAP attend the program that is at or near their school. When children transition from one program to the next, for example from the K-1 to 2-3 program, MAP assists the child and family with this transition by:

- Conducting an Open House at each of its sites prior to the beginning of school
- Transferring the child's complete file (including progress and incident reports) to the next program.
- Welcoming families to contact us and set up individual appointments with the Educators, Coordinators, Program Directors, and/or Executive Director if they have questions or concerns about the new program for their child.
- Providing detailed information about each of our programs on our website, [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com).

### **Transportation Plan & Procedure**

Ensuring a smooth arrival to MAP is an important process involving both the parent/guardian and the MAP educators.

- **The parent/guardian is responsible for notifying their child's MAP program if their child(ren) will not be attending MAP. *Updating School Dismissal Manager does not notify MAP of their absence or change in after school plans.***
- **Parents/guardians MUST notify their child's teacher as well their child's school through the School Dismissal Manager of their attendance at MAP, and update it with any changes to their attendance & enrollment.**
- **The parent/guardian is responsible for picking up their child (ren) and must notify MAP if anyone else will be picking up his or her child (ren).**

The transition from MAP to school and from School to MAP is outlined below:

- ***For children that attend the Blake Middle School:***  
The children will either walk or ride the bus to the MAP program that they have enrolled in at dismissal. A MAP educator will greet all children and attendance will be taken.
- ***For children that attend the Dale St. School:***  
At dismissal, children will be met by the MAP educators, attendance will be taken, and they will walk to the MAP space at the Pfaff Center. The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade program provides an Alternative Transportation Plan Form for families who would like to give their child permission to sign themselves out without a parent or guardian present. If interested, please contact your child's program director.
- ***For children that attend the Wheelock School:***  
At dismissal, children will be met by MAP educators, attendance will be taken, and they will walk to the MAP building.
- ***For children that attend the Memorial School:***
  - The children attending the Jump Start MAP (8:30-12:15 p.m.) are dropped off by the parent/guardian and must be signed in at MAP. Children that attend the Memorial Integrated Preschool after Jump Start MAP will be walked to their classrooms at 12:15. Children who attend Memorial Integrated Preschool in the morning will be met at dismissal time (11:15) by a MAP educator and walked to the modular classroom.
  - PM Kindergarten children that attend AM MAP (8:30-12:05) are dropped off by the parent/guardian and must be signed in at MAP. The MAP educators



will walk the children to the Memorial School at 12:05.

- Children that attend AM Kindergarten, Full Day Kindergarten or First Grade will be met at dismissal (11:05am or 2:30pm) by MAP educators, attendance will be taken and children will be walked to the MAP building.
- **School Use** – MAP leases and utilizes shared space in the Medfield Public Schools (cafeteria, gym, library, classrooms, etc.) for our daily program operations at the Memorial School (59 Adams St.) for our Jump Start Kindergarten & First Grade Program, at the Wheelock School (17 Elm St.) for our Second & Third Grade Program, and at the Dale Street School (45 Adams St.) for our Fourth through Sixth Grade Program. MAP children will walk to the school daily for various activities.
- **Field Trips** - On some early release and vacation days, MAP may take the children on field trips. MAP transports children by hired school bus only. MAP will notify families at least two weeks in advance of the planned trip. Permission slips must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned before the day of the trip in order for a child to participate. Walking trips around the local area are taken during the year. These may include walks up town, to the police/fire station, to the library, Hinkley Pond, Vine Lake Cemetery, nature walks and around the school, etc...
- **Emergency**- No emergency treatment will be given without parent/guardian consent except in a life-threatening situation. Every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian in the event of an emergency. If unable to reach them, MAP will then attempt to contact individuals the parent/guardian listed on their Child's Information Form. MAP staff, trained in First Aid & CPR will administer care as needed and when appropriate. An ambulance will transport your child to the nearest medical facility if necessary. A MAP educator will accompany the child in the event his or her parent/guardian does not arrive to MAP prior to the ambulance leaving the emergency site. The child's information form will accompany the educator and child to the hospital.

## **Tuition Policy**

### **Tuition Calculation:**

- MAP establishes a daily fee for each program (Jump Start through 6th grade) based on the cost to care for each child.
- This daily fee is multiplied by your child's schedule, and families are billed monthly, in advance.
- MAP offers a 5% sibling discount for the lesser tuition.
- A two-week deposit is required at MAP sign up. Tuition deposits will be held in escrow until you leave the program and then refunded to you provided your account is paid in full. Refundable tuition deposits left unclaimed for 90 days after withdrawing or ending care, will be considered a donation.

### **Payment:**

- All tuition is due in advance of services being rendered.
- Tuition is due regardless of your child's absence from the program due to illness, holidays, vacations, etc.
- Tuition statements are emailed on or before the 15th of the month from [quickbooks@notifications.intuit.com](mailto:quickbooks@notifications.intuit.com). Payment is due no later than the first of each month. (For example, the first bill of the year will go out on August 15 and payment is due to MAP on or before September 1).

- If you prefer to receive printed statements, need a receipt or other documentation please email your request to [mapofficebilling@gmail.com](mailto:mapofficebilling@gmail.com).
- Tuition payments are payable to the "Medfield Afterschool Program" or "MAP." Payments must be by check, via your bank's online bill pay, money order, or ACH Payment. MAP cannot accept cash. Please include your child's name on your check. Tuition payments can be dropped off at your child's program, placed in MAP's locked drop box located outside the Wheelock MAP modular, or mailed to: MAP, P.O. Box 18, Medfield, MA 02052. ACH payments will be drawn from participating families' accounts in batches, starting on the 1st of the month and may occur within the first 5 business days of the month. If an ACH payment is declined, families will be responsible for any associated fees and for providing MAP with an alternative payment. For ACH information and enrollment please visit [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com), or email [mapofficebilling@gmail.com](mailto:mapofficebilling@gmail.com).

### **Late Payment Fees and Program Exclusion:**

- Payments that have not been received within 7 business days of the first of the month will result in a late fee of \$25.00 being charged to your account.
- In the event a tuition check is returned by the bank to MAP, a fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to your account.
- MAP may discontinue services if payment is not received for the past due amount within 20 business days of when the payment was due. Nonpayment of tuition will result in your child being removed from our enrollment, and the loss of your two-week tuition deposit.
- Overdue accounts may be referred to a collection's agency after 30 days unless other arrangements have been made with the Executive Director. Families are responsible for all account balances, plus reasonable collection and attorney fees associated with the collection of the account.
- In order to not jeopardize your child's enrollment for non-payment of tuition, families must contact the Executive Director to create a written payment plan. Payment plans must outline a new payment structure that includes the outstanding balance and ongoing tuition. The amount due weekly must be equal to the current tuition and a portion of the outstanding balance. Families will be given up to 8 weeks to pay the overdue balance amount. Failure to maintain the payment plan will result in an automatic suspension of your child's enrollment. Families will forfeit their refundable two-week tuition deposit for non-payment of tuition and still be responsible for the past due amounts.
- MAP reserves the right to end enrollment and/or refuse future MAP enrollment due to non-payment of tuition.
- Once the tuition balance is paid in full the child/children may be re-enrolled, dependent upon space availability.
- If paying your tuition becomes a hardship, please contact the Executive Director, as they may be able to provide you with resources for financial assistance.

### **Tuition Inclusions/Exclusions:**

- Tuition will be charged for holidays and non-school days that fall within the academic year.
- Jump Start families are not billed for teacher professional days, conference days or non-school days as the Jump Start program is not open/offered on those days.
- MAP does not charge extra tuition for coverage on early release days or conference days that are part of your child's normal schedule.
- MAP does not include or bill tuition for the school vacation weeks (December, February or April).
- If there is a non-school day that MAP elects to open, extra tuition may be due (not available for Jump Start).

- For extra days and the February or April Vacation weeks, additional tuition is due with sign up.
- In the event of school closings (ex. snow days), additional days will be added at the end of the school year. MAP will bill you for any additional days, per your child/children’s schedule. Families are responsible for paying for the additional days regardless of whether or not their child attends MAP. Failure to pay for these additional days will jeopardize your child’s enrollment for the following year.

**Schedule Changes:**

- If electing to withdraw your child from MAP prior to the beginning of the school year, MAP will adhere to the following **tuition deposit guidelines**: 100% refundable if MAP is notified in writing (email accepted) by June 15, 75% refundable if notified in writing by July 15, 50% refundable if we are notified in writing by August 15, Non-refundable after August 15 and families are responsible for their first tuition installment in full.
- Schedule changes, for example dropping days, for the upcoming school year, must be made in writing (email accepted) to the Executive Director by August 14.
- MAP will not make schedule changes between August 15 and September 14.
- After September 15, and during the school year, MAP requires a two-week advance written notice (email accepted) to make schedule changes (add days based on space availability, drop days, withdraw from special sign up days or withdraw from the program). Families may email the Executive Director or their Program Director.
- Families may begin notifying MAP in writing on 9/1 of any schedule changes to start after September 14.
- Tuition will be adjusted accordingly as of the effective date of the change.

**Late Pick up Fees:**

- Late pick up fees can be paid the day of or will be billed and are payable upon receipt of invoice.
- The late pick up fee is \$1.00 a minute after the applicable program designated pick-up time (12:15, 2:30, 4:30, or 6:00 p.m.).
- We do not want to charge you this late fee; we want you to arrive on time! Please notify us whenever possible if you are going to be late so we may inform your child.

**TUITION RATES**

<b>JUMP START MAP</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Full-Time (5 days)</b>
<b>Morning Jump Start (8:30-12:15)</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>
<b>Afternoon Jump Start (11:15-2:30)</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Full Day Jump Start (8:30-2:30)</b>	<b>\$64.00</b>	<b>\$320.00</b>
<b>MAP for KINDERGARTEN</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Full-Time (5 days)</b>
<b>Morning only – 8:30 am – dismissal for PM K or after AM K- dismissal-2:30</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>
<b>Morning/return until 4:30 pm or after AM K dismissal-4:30</b>	<b>\$49.00</b>	<b>\$245.00</b>
<b>Morning/return to - 6:00 pm or after AM K dismissal -6:00</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>

<b>FULL DAY K afternoon dismissal - 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>MAP for Grades 1-6</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Full-Time (5 days)</b>
<b>School dismissal until 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>Early Release Day</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>	
<b>Non-School Day &amp; School Vacation Day</b>	<b>\$64.00</b>	

*\*Please note that MAP accepts voucher payments from the State. A tuition assistance program is available for families without a voucher; please contact the Executive Director at [annette.map@comcast.net](mailto:annette.map@comcast.net) for more information and an application.*

**Holidays & Vacations** (please see the MAP Calendar available on our web page)

If a non-school day or holiday falls during a normal school week, you must pay tuition for that day with the exception of the December, February, and April vacation breaks.

MAP is closed during the December vacation break (**December 23, 2024- January 1, 2025**) and tuition is not charged for this week.

MAP offers special full day programs during the vacation weeks of February (**Tuesday, 2/18-Thursday, 2/20**) and April (**Tuesday, 4/12-Friday, 4/15**) for children in kindergarten through grade 6 (not available for Jump Start families). **You must sign up in advance and pay in advance for these special vacation programs.** Sign-ups for February & April Vacation will be emailed to you and posted on MAP's web page: [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com).

The non-school days or holidays that **MAP is CLOSED** for the 2024-2025 school year are:

- September 2 (Labor Day)
- October 14 (Columbus Day)
- November 11 (Veteran's Day)
- November 28 & 29 (Thanksgiving and the following day)
- December 23 – January 1 (December Break & New Year's Day)
- January 20 (Martin Luther King Day)
- February 17 (President's Day)
- February 21 (MAP Teacher Professional Day)
- April 21 (Patriot's Day)
- May 26 (Memorial Day)
- June 19 (Juneteenth ~ if still in MAP/school)

The non-school days or holidays that **MAP will be OPEN and offering full day programs for children in Kindergarten through grade 6** (not available for Jump Start families):

- Thursday, October 3
- Tuesday, December 10
- February Vacation: 2/18-2/20
- Friday, 4/18
- April Vacation: 4/22-4/25

Sign-ups for these days will be emailed to you in the weeks prior to the special sign up day and also posted on our web site: [www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com) Advance sign-up and payment (additional tuition) is required to attend on these special full day openings (8:00 am – 6:00 pm.).

### **Early Release Days & Conference Days**

**MAP is open on all early release days for Full Day Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and all conference days Full Day Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.** There is no extra charge for families in FDK-6<sup>th</sup> grade on these days.

**Jump Start MAP is CLOSED on early release days & conference days.** *Jump Start families are not charged tuition for these days.*

**Sixth Grade students will have early release days on 10/24, 10/25, 3/27, 3/28.**

**Please see the 2024-2025 MAP calendar** (available on our website [www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com)) **for all of the scheduled early release days & conference days. If your child attends MAP on these days, please be sure to pack them a lunch, snacks and a water bottle.**

### **Late Pick-Up Policy**

MAP closes at 6:00 PM. Parents/Guardian/Authorized Pick up Persons arriving at or leaving the program after 6:00 PM will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per minute. Jump Start/Kindergarten families electing the 12:15, 2:30, or 4:30 PM pick-up will be subject to the same late fee.

The late fee is paid to the educators that are on duty. **Remember, we do not want to charge you this late fee; we want you to arrive on time.** You will be asked to sign in the late fee notebook. Payment is preferred that day. MAP can bill you if necessary and payment is due upon receipt. **If you are going to be late, please call MAP and let us know.**

In the event that the parent/guardian/pick-up person is *10 minutes* late picking up, a MAP educator will attempt to contact the parents/guardian at home, work, cell, etc... A MAP educator will continue to attempt to reach the parent/guardian using the numbers listed in their child's file.

After *30 minutes* have passed beyond the pick-up time without a call from or reaching the parent/guardian/pick-up person, the MAP educator will then begin calling people listed on their Child's Information Page under Authorized to Release and Emergency Pick-up.

If a person listed in the child's file comes to pick them up, a MAP teacher will leave a note on the door letting the parent/guardian know who picked up and the time, as well as leaving another round of messages with the same information.

After *1 hour* has passed beyond the pick-up time and the MAP educators are still unable to contact the parent/guardian and found no one on the Authorized to Release or Emergency Pick-Up to come for the child, the MAP educator will call the Medfield Police Department for assistance.

**Parents/Guardians who are consistently late or significantly late without calling will be suspected of abuse and neglect.**

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### HEALTH CARE POLICY *(subject to change based on new guidelines and best practices for health and safety).*

Our Health Policy has been designed with both adults and children in mind. In many cases it is not in the best interest of an individual or the group for the child to remain at MAP, but at the same time we understand that it is difficult for the parent/guardian to miss work. ***For the health and safety of others, and to prevent the spread of illness we ask that parents/guardians keep their child home if he or she is sick.***

If your child is too ill to go to school, we ask that you keep your child home from MAP as well. If your child leaves school or MAP early due to illness or injury, they may not return the same day.

Due to the number of children in close contact it is impossible to totally eliminate the spread of infection in an after-school program. Children often harbor viruses before symptoms appear and therefore unknowingly infect other children.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health updated their COVID-19 guidance stating that individuals no longer have to isolate themselves at home for day 0-5 after a positive COVID test. COVID will be treated as other respiratory viruses and recommendations for when to stay home can be found here: [Staying Home To Prevent the Spread of Respiratory Viruses](#)

Symptoms of Illness:

- Fever of 100.0° Fahrenheit or higher
- Severe Sore Throat/Cough - especially when accompanied by swollen glands in the neck, headache or fever.
- Vomiting and or Diarrhea
- Eye Drainage – Can be cause by allergens or viruses. Bacterial Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) is very contagious. Please consult with your health care provider before sending your child to MAP with thick mucus or pus draining from the eye, or if the eye is red, puffy, extremely itchy or painful.

After illness, children may return to MAP when they are cleared to return to school and/or when they have been free from fever (without the use of fever reducing medications), vomiting, diarrhea for 24 hours. Or when medication for communicable diseases is required, the child must have been on the medication for 24-48 hours after 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

Masking is no longer a requirement however any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those recovering from a respiratory virus or who face higher risk, will be accepted & supported in that choice.

Families are also asked to notify MAP when their child is diagnosed with a contagious illness such as RSV, COVID-19, the flu, strep, conjunctivitis, stomach bug, lice, etc. Names are kept confidential, when we share the information with all families.

MAP obtains guidance on our health care precautions, practices, and policies from our licensing agency, the Department of Early Education and Care, the Center for Disease Control, MAP's Health Care Consultant, and the Board of Health to help ensure the safety and well-being for all who participate in our program. MAP will update our health care policies as needed to remain current with any changes to best practices for health and safety. In the event of a health care crisis, families

will be notified immediately should MAP be required to close.

### **HEALTHY HAND HYGIENE**

Everyone will wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing instructions are posted above/next to every sink, in a developmentally appropriate manner for all to understand. When soap and water are not readily available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be used. Hand sanitizer will be kept out of reach of children, and its use will be supervised by teachers.

Hand hygiene will occur before and after eating, after sneezing, coughing, nose blowing, or touching the face, after using the restroom, and as needed.

### **CLEANING & DISINFECTING**

The MAP spaces are cleaned and disinfected every night. All cleaning and disinfecting products used will be EPA-registered. MAP will clean & disinfect snack/lunch areas before and after eating. High touch surfaces will be cleaned as needed.

### **MEDICATION POLICY**

**All medication MUST be HANDED to your child's Program Director** in its original container with clear instructions and be accompanied by a **completed Medication Consent Form** authorizing MAP to give the medicine to your child. **Medication of any kind should never come to school or MAP in a lunchbox or pocket.** No educator shall administer the first dose of any medication to a child, except under extraordinary/emergency circumstances and with the parent/guardian consent. All medication will be stored under proper conditions for sanitation, preservation, security and safety. All unused medication will be returned to the parent/guardian. We suggest that you ask the pharmacist for two containers with the proper labeling, one for home and one for MAP.

In order for **any** medication to be dispensed at MAP, the appropriate form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. Please read through the different description for each form and choose the appropriate one for the medication you wish to keep at MAP. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Program Director.

**Individual Health Care Plan** - For any chronic medical or health condition which has been diagnosed by a doctor or licensed health care practitioner, including but not limited to serious allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, ADD/ADHD, celiac disease, diabetes, epilepsy, physical disabilities, etc.

**General Medication Form** - For both prescription and non-prescription medications that are NOT necessary for a severe allergy or a chronic condition. (Examples: ibuprofen, antibiotics, etc.)

The forms listed above are available on our website [www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfieldafterschoolprogram.com) and at each of the MAP sites. *New health forms must be completed annually.*

### **BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Behavior guidance is based on an understanding of the needs and development of the child as well as the circumstances of the moment. What is effective in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Similarly, what works well for one child may not be effective if tried with another child.

Our primary goals @ MAP for behavior management and guidance are to:

- Maximize the growth, learning and development of the child
- Cultivate relationships so the child feels comfortable, valued, and respected.
- Ensure the safety & protection of the group
- Avoid suspension and/or termination of the child due to behavior challenges

Techniques employed at MAP are constructive, positive and balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior. Behavior management at MAP strives to enable the child to be actively involved in solving his/her problems in socially acceptable ways, and to foster the child's respect for others, their rights and feelings. At the same time MAP works toward ensuring that others respect the child and his/her rights and feelings. In this manner we believe that children will learn to develop their own internal monitoring systems. Behavior Management is a method of enhancing a healthy self-esteem within the child.

Techniques for building self-esteem:

- Role modeling
- Let children know they are valued; it's their behavior which may be inappropriate
- Include children in activities, decision making, and problem solving
- Focus on a child's strengths rather than areas for growth
- Treat each child with honesty and respect; do not compare one child with another
- Encourage children to take risks and gain confidence
- Encourage achievements
- Show understanding
- Talk with children, not at them
- Look for opportunities for success
- Value children for whom and what they are not for what they do

Infrequent or minor infractions of MAP rules and regulations will generally be handled by the program teachers, while continuous minor infractions and/or serious infractions (i.e., bullying and/or harassment) of the MAP rules and regulations will likely result in the involvement of the Program Director and/or Executive Director in the disciplinary process.

MAP views bullying as something that is deliberate, repeated, and where there is a power imbalance. Bullying and/or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: physical, verbal, social/emotional, indirect, cyber-bullying, as well as intimidation and retaliation

Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, MAP cannot report specific information to the parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken against a child in the program unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the family must be aware of in order to report violations.

Strategies for handling various behavior management situations at MAP are:

- Modeling and encouraging appropriate behavior
- Modeling and encouraging effective communication skills
- Maintaining consistent rules
- Helping with decision making and problem solving by talking with the child, giving verbal reminders/warnings, and implementing appropriate consequences (e.g., natural, logical, loss of choices, privileges, etc.)



- Supporting and encouraging by discussing the concerns/behavior with program staff and the parent/guardians. Consulting with the child's school teachers, counselors or psychologists. Assist families with referrals, if necessary.
- Using behavior modification techniques.

At MAP and in accordance with Massachusetts State Law 102 CMR 11.05:5:

- No child shall receive corporal punishment including spanking
- No child shall be subject to severe or cruel treatment, humiliation, or verbal abuse
- No child shall be denied food as a form of punishment
- No child shall be punished for soiling or wetting

While most children conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, there are instances in which established rules are not followed and for which appropriate consequences must be accepted by the student and parents/guardians.

In the event the above strategies are unsuccessful, MAP may implement a suspension or termination from the program.

### **Suspension from the Program**

Suspension takes place when a child does not follow program rules and norms which significantly affect their lives, the lives of other children, the staff, and program property.

Suspension is a serious consequence of inappropriate or unsafe behaviors. Depending on the severity of the incident, a student may have to be suspended. This determination for suspension will be made by the Executive Director along with the Program Director.

If a student is suspended, his/her parents/guardians will be notified immediately. The parents/guardians will be informed of the reason for suspension, how long it is for, and the date the student may return to the program. The President of the Board of Directors will also be notified about suspensions, if and when they occur.

During the Suspension, the child will not be allowed to attend or participate in MAP for a period of time, for up to ten of their scheduled MAP days. No credit or reduction in tuition will be permitted during a suspension.

Prior to the child's return to the program, the parent/guardian must meet with the Executive Director and Program Director to discuss and agree upon expectations for program participation.

### **Termination from the Program**

MAP or the Executive Director reserves the right to terminate a child's enrollment in the program if the child is suspended more than once or MAP cannot successfully meet the behavioral needs or challenges of the child.

The President of the Board of Directors will be notified about a termination of enrollment, if and when they occur.

Please note that MAP may vary or waive the above process for behavior management at any time, and makes all decisions in the best interest of the children, program, and families. MAP reserves

the right to re-enroll a child with improved/changed behavior.

### **Absences**

If for any reason your child will not be attending MAP on their regularly scheduled day you must call or email and let MAP know that your child will be absent. This will assure the staff of the safety and whereabouts of your child; absences without prior notice may cause concern that a child is missing and unnecessary time will be spent in searching for the child. ***Updating SCHOOL DISMISSAL MANAGER does not notify MAP of a child's absence or change in after school plans – families must notify MAP directly.***

**ALWAYS CALL OR EMAIL YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR when your child will not be attending MAP for any reason. If emailing, and you do not get a response, please call as the program director may be out or away from their desk.**

**Repeated failure to notify the program of a child's absence may result in notifying the MAP's Executive Director as well as the Parent Board and determining a course of action to correct the issue.**

***PLEASE SAVE YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM PHONE NUMBER IN YOUR CELL PHONE:***

- JumpStart-Kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> grade program: 508.359.2165
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program: 508.359.8513
- 4<sup>th</sup> through 6th grade program: 508.359.2168

### **Snow Days & Emergency Closings**

When the Medfield Public Schools are **CLOSED**, MAP cannot provide care, and will be **CLOSED**. Regular tuition payments are still due for snow/emergency closing days.

- ***Delayed Openings:*** In the event of a delayed opening, MAP will open following the delay.
  - 1- hour delay:**
    - AM/Full day Jump Start and AM MAP K will open at 9:30.
  - 2-hour delay and morning preschool and kindergarten are cancelled.**
    - AM/Full day Jump Start and AM MAP K will open at 10:30.
    - PM Jump Start and PM MAP K (children who attend Morning preschool and AM Kindergarten) MAP will open at 11:15
- ***Cancellations:*** If afternoon preschool & kindergarten are cancelled, and your child is in AM or Full Day Jump Start or AM MAP/PM K, you will need to pick up your child by 12:15
- ***Early Closings:*** If the schools elect to close early, MAP will be CLOSED for all children in Jump Start through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Children at school in **K-6<sup>th</sup>** will be sent home or to your emergency destination on the bus, or follow the plan you put in place with the school. **Children will not be sent to MAP as MAP will not be open!** If children are at MAP when the Medfield Public Schools elect to close, MAP will reach out to families to come and pick up their children. MAP will remain open for 1 hour after the time the school has decided to close/release.

**It is very important that you have designated person(s) to care for your child in the event that you are unable. The Medfield Public School and MAP suggest that it be a neighbor or someone local.**

On a non-school day that MAP is open but elects to close, have a delayed opening, or have an early closing due to weather or other emergency, MAP will attempt to notify families via: email, on our website, TV Channel 7 News and [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com). MAP will use its own discretion on its openings and closing based on the severity of the weather/emergency, and keeping in mind the safety of the children, families, and staff.

**Other emergencies:**

MAP will attempt to notify families via: email, on our website, TV Channel 7 News and [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com) to the best of our ability in the event of an emergency closing and if the pick-up location for your child has been changed. All families will be asked to come and pick up their child.

In an emergency, MAP will follow the instructions of Town Officials, Police & Fire.

**If we need to leave the immediate area and your child attends:**

- **Jump Start/K-1 Program** at the Memorial School, we will proceed to the Dale Street School or to the Pfaff Center.
- **2-3 Program** at the Wheelock School, we will proceed to the Medfield High School.
- **MAP @ the Pfaff Center**, we will proceed to the Dale Street School or the Memorial School.

*It is very important that the Medfield schools as well as MAP have names and numbers of emergency persons that we can access in the event of any emergency closings. We also request that families remember to keep contact phone & email current as well as others MAP is authorized to release to.*

**Release of a Child by MAP**

**MAP will not release a child to anyone other than the parent, guardian or authorized pick-up person unless notification has been given to the program.** MAP prefers written notice but in the event that a phone call is necessary a MAP educator may call the parent/guardian back to verify the phone call is legitimate. The parent/guardian also may be asked to email a note verifying the release. If someone other than the parent/guardian shows up to pick up the child without prior notification, MAP will attempt to contact the parent/guardian until authorization is given for the release of the child. MAP requires that people picking up the child show some form of photo identification before a child will be released. We ask that families inform the person picking up of this requirement. Please be understanding of this policy. We do this for the protection and safety of the children. Both in the beginning and throughout the year, parents & guardians may be asked for identification until the educators become familiar. Thank you for your understanding.

In the event that MAP believes any parent/guardian/authorized pick-up person appears to be incapacitated or unable to provide appropriate care and protection for that child the parent/guardian/authorized pick-up person will be asked to provide for an appropriate alternative pick up of the child. MAP shall determine the appropriateness of this alternative. MAP reserves the right to call the Medfield Police to ensure the safety of the child. MAP will also consider this as a cause of suspected abuse and neglect and will follow the policy as outlined in the following Abuse and Neglect Policy.

### **Child Abuse & Neglect Policy**

Child Abuse is the non-accidental commission of any act by a caregiver which causes or creates a substantial risk of physical or emotional injury or sexual abuse of a child; or the victimization of a child through sexual exploitation or human trafficking, regardless if the person responsible is a caregiver.

Neglect is the failure by a **caregiver**, either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care, including malnutrition or failure to thrive; provided, however, that such inability is not due solely to inadequate economic resources or solely to the existence of a handicapping condition. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/definitions-of-abuse-and-neglect>

**All MAP educators & staff are mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect and will comply with all regulations pertaining to this issue.**

In cases of suspected abuse or neglect occurring outside of the program, the educator will immediately notify the Executive Director or Program Director and file a 51-A with the Department of Children and Families. MAP's licensing agency, the Department of Early Education and Care, will also be notified. All educators are mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect and will comply with all regulations pertaining to this issue.

#### **Procedure for reporting suspected abuse or neglect by a parent/guardian or other adult responsible for the child:**

Educators having any concerns about a child should first discuss their concerns with the Executive and/or Program Director and other relevant educators. Educators should document their concerns as soon as an incident is noticed or suspected. If a referral to the Department of Children and Families is deemed necessary, *MAP reserves the right to decide whether the referral should be discussed with the parent/guardian. This decision will be based on the specific situation and the child's safety.* After discussing the concerns and the referral, all parties should agree upon and sign a social service referral plan. A follow-up appointment should be scheduled with the parent/guardian to discuss the outcome of the referral. Whenever possible, educators will furnish names and numbers of referral agencies. Educators should document their concerns, any recommendations made, meetings held, and the date for the follow-up appointment on a MAP social service plan.

#### **Procedure for reporting suspected abuse or neglect by a staff member:**

When either a parent/guardian or educator has a concern about a particular educator, it should be brought immediately to the attention of the Executive Director, Program Director, or the Board of Directors. The Executive Director or Program Director should notify the President of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director or Program Director will document issue/incident/concerns and notify both the Department of Early Education and Care and the Department of Children & Families. *The educator that is suspected will then be placed on a temporary leave of absence and may not work with children until the investigation by the Department of Early Education and Care and the Department of Children and Families is completed.* The educator will be given one week paid leave. The educator may not return to work until the Department of Early Education and Care approves his or her return, even if the Department of Children and Families has given approval.

#### **Referral Plan**

The Medfield Afterschool Program shall provide, when appropriate, referral service recommendations. These recommendations shall include social, mental health, educational and medical services.

The educators at MAP shall document all concerns prior to submitting to the parent/guardian the

concern for referral and discuss when appropriate their concerns with the Program Director and Executive Director. A meeting will be set up with the parent/guardian to discuss their concerns. All documentation relating to the referral will be made available to the parent/guardian at this meeting. If a referral recommendation is made, written consent from the parent/guardian needs to be obtained. The Medfield Afterschool Program will keep documentation of the meeting with the parent/guardian and any referrals that may be made.

The following is a list of referrals currently utilized by the Medfield Afterschool Program:

1. Medfield Public Schools: Pupil Services Director, 508-359-7135 and/or individual school principals, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and school nurses.
2. Medfield Youth Outreach Office: 508-359-7121  
[www.town.medfield.net/Medfield-Youth-Outreach](http://www.town.medfield.net/Medfield-Youth-Outreach)

### **Resources for Families:**

**Interface Referral Service:** Phone: 888-244-6843 <https://interface.williamjames.edu/>

A helpline that operates Monday-Friday from 9 AM- 5 PM, callers from subscribing communities (Medfield participates) will work with a Resource and Referral Counselor who will help them navigate the challenges of finding mental health services. Each caller from a subscribing community will be assigned a lead counselor who will provide matches to services, as well as provide information and resources about mental health and wellness. This service is subscribed to with funds from the Medfield Public Schools and Town of Medfield for ALL.

**Parental Stress Line:** 1-800-632-8188 [www.parentshelpingparents.org](http://www.parentshelpingparents.org)

### **Emergency Support Resources:**

- **Riverside Emergency Services:** 1-800-529-5077 (24 hours/7 days): Crisis consultation for children and adults for mental health/psychiatric emergencies.
- **TEXT- 988 - Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** 24/7, confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. Help for Veterans: For calls, pressing “1” after dialing 988 will connect you directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline which serves our nation’s Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. For texts, continue to text the Veterans Crisis Lifeline short code: 838255.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Fundraising:**

On occasion, the MAP children may participate in fundraising for either the program or for other charities by selling handmade crafts, lemonade, baked goods, etc.

### **Directory Information/Photo Policy:**

The name, address, email, and phone number of MAP children may be shared within our community for the development of lists, parent phone/email chains, etc. Also, from time to time we publish pictures of MAP events on our website, Facebook page, program newsletters/emails, and in the newspaper that may contain your child's photo. In those instances, identifying information does not accompany the photo. If you do not wish to share your child's directory information, and/or do not consent to having your child's photograph appear in the above mentioned, please notify your child's program director in writing by September.

### **MAP Communication:**

MAP desires to partner with you to assure your child's success in our after school program. Please remember to keep us informed of any issues that occur that may impact your child (a recent move, parent/guardian traveling, injuries, illness, losses, separation/divorce, etc.)

Families must provide MAP with multiple ways to contact them, in addition to the best contact number in case of emergency.

Additionally, because your child spends part of their day in school, open communication and information sharing between MAP staff and the Medfield Public School personnel will assist MAP in providing your children with quality care, consistency, and support for both you and them during their time at MAP. (including but not limited to the principal, teachers, school psychologist, nurse, aides, specialists, IEP, behavior plans, social stories, medications, illness, injuries, etc...)

### **MAP Information:**

MAP's Family Handbook, Calendar, Sign-up Forms, Newsletters, and other important information are available on the MAP web page, [www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com](http://www.medfielddafterschoolprogram.com). It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify MAP if they do not have access to the internet. MAP will then know to provide such families with paper copies.

MAP utilizes a "bulk e-mail program" as a means for communicating important updates and information to our families. We will use the email addresses you provided on the first page of our child information form. If you have additional emails that you would like us to notify you with, please email [annette.map@comcast.net](mailto:annette.map@comcast.net).

### **Eating at MAP**

#### **Lunch**

- Jump Start and half day Kindergarten children should bring a water bottle and their lunch to eat at the program.
- **On early release days, all children should bring a lunch and a water bottle.**
- All lunches should arrive ready to eat (pre-cut, no microwaving or toasting).
- Children may eat outside (weather permitting)

Please remember that your child stays very active and good nutrition is important. Some lunch suggestions are: sandwiches with meat or cheese, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables, healthy snacks, or a variety of items in a Bento-style lunch box.

**Snacks** - All children should come to MAP each day with a snack and a water bottle. MAP will also provide a snack.

**Please be sure and let us know if your child is allergic to anything!** Please speak with your Program Director or Lead Teacher regarding this issue.

### **Clothing & Belongings**

- ALL of your child's belongings should be labeled with your child's name and fit in one bag.
- Each child has a place to put their things on the days that they attend. Cubby space is very limited. During the year we will work with the children, teaching them to manage their belongings.
- Children in the Jump Start/K-1<sup>st</sup> grade program (and older if desired) should keep a change of clothing in their back pack at all times. Please label all items with your child's name.
- All children go outside to play almost every day. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

### **Homework Policy**

MAP will provide children in grades 2 and up with a designated space and time to do homework. An educator will be there to provide assistance to the group. At your request we can provide you and your child a homework contract. This contract allows the parent/guardian and child to talk about what the expectations are for the amount of time that is necessary to spend on homework at MAP. Children with homework contracts will be encouraged to do their homework, but ultimately it is their responsibility for seeing it through. This is our way of fostering their independence and helping them to be responsible for their actions and choices.

### **Outdoor Play Policy**

Outdoor play is an important and beneficial part of your child's day providing balance in their daily routine. Outdoor play is developmentally necessary for all ages of children and offers them the opportunity to explore their environment, develop muscle strength, coordination & gross motor skills, develop friendships, learn new physical skills & games, and so much more.

MAP attempts to go outside every day, sometimes even when it rains. We do not go outside in instances when temperatures are extremely hot or cold. It is important for families to dress children accordingly for the weather conditions and outside temperatures. Coats, hats, mittens/gloves, boots & snow pants (to play in the snow) for the colder temperatures. Time spent outside varies depending on the temperature/wind chill (must be above 15 degrees), if the children are dressed for the weather, and the outside conditions.

When the ground is frozen, the playground and structures will be closed.

To protect your child in the heat and sun, MAP suggests sending your child in with a hat/visor, sun protective clothing, and or sunglasses. Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen as needed, prior to their child's arrival to the program. Families are welcome to send in sunscreen for their child to keep in their backpack labeled with their name. It is important for families to teach their child how to self-apply. MAP will offer reminders to the children to reapply sunscreen later in the day to exposed skin including their face, ears, back of neck, bare shoulders, arms, legs and feet. **MAP does not provide sunscreen** due to children's sensitivities. Families should send their child with a labeled water bottle, we also provide the children with access to water to prevent dehydration, and limit time outside during extreme heat.

### **Pick Up, Drop Off & Parking**

When dropping your child off at MAP, please enter the building with him/her and see that the child is left under the supervision of a MAP educator. If your child attends morning Jump Start or on special openings days for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, YOU MUST SIGN YOUR CHILD INTO THE PROGRAM including the time of drop off; a sign-in sheet is available in the classroom. We ask that you do this for your

child's safety and security, and so that educators may communicate any pertinent information with you.

When picking your child up from MAP, YOU MUST SIGN OUT including the time of pick up. Even if your child is playing outside when you arrive, please enter the building with him/her, help collect all belongings, and sign out.

Written notification must be given to MAP when someone other than the child's parent/guardian will be picking him/her up. **Your child will not be released to anyone without prior notification.** If there is an individual who is specifically not allowed to pick up, please notify MAP in writing and provide MAP with supporting court orders/documentation.

**PARKING** – For everyone's safety, we ask that you please follow the signs/directional arrows and park in the designated parking spots. Please refrain from parking on the curb or in the fire lanes. When driving into and out of the lots we ask that you keep in mind that there will be children & families walking out from and in-between parked vehicles.

### **Employment of MAP Educators by a MAP Family**

Educators employed by MAP are free to pursue outside activities or accept responsibilities as they wish, as long as they do not interfere with their duties/hours at MAP or conflict with MAP.

Outside arrangements families make with the MAP educators for babysitting, transportation, etc. are between the educator and the family. While assisting a family with childcare, the educator is not sponsored, endorsed, or associated with MAP. The program will not be held responsible for private childcare. No educator may privately care for children in any of the MAP locations at any time, including before school starts, after school, or after MAP closes. Arrangements for outside services should be arranged outside of MAP. MAP has no obligation or responsibility with regard to private arrangements made between an employee and a family.

### **Dogs and Other Pets**

We love animals, however, some of our children and our staff may be allergic or afraid of animals, so please, when picking up your child, leave your pet in your vehicle or tied up outside away from the areas where children may be. Thank you!