



## MARA Summer Playground Program Parent Handbook

### Introduction to MARA

Middletown Area Recreation Alliance is the result of a partnership between Middletown Area School District, Middletown Borough, Royalton Borough, and Lower Swatara Township. MARA officially started October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 when the Recreation Programs Supervisor was hired. *MARA's mission is to build a stronger community through enhancing, diversifying, and increasing recreation opportunities.*

### Overview of Summer Parks philosophy

One of the ways MARA will be meeting its mission is by enhancing the Summer Parks Program to be enriching, as well as fun. Each summer, MARA vows to create fresh programming for our kids, while providing a safe atmosphere that will push them to understand themselves, and the world around them. We will do this by having a schedule that allows kids to play individually, as well as with the large group, but also provide outside programming to give the children a taste of other things that the world has to offer.

### Parent/Child Expectations

In order for the Summer Parks Program to do what is supposed to do, there are expectations that parents, children, and staff should be following.

#### Daily Child Expectations:

- Please come with a positive attitude every day.
- Please be respectful of others, including their things
- Always come prepared for the day
- It is ok to have non-positive feelings, but please talk to an adult about them
- If someone is being hurtful, **do not retaliate**, get an adult so we can help solve the problem
- Be willing to try something new

#### Daily Parent Expectations:

- Please make sure your child has everything he or she needs to be successful for the day
- If there are issues with bullying, programming, or anything else, please communicate with the staff immediately so we can try to address the problem.
- Please drop off and pick up on time.
- Please remember that the staff have the best intentions and want what's best for your kids, please communicate if you feel that is not the experience you are having.

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### **What Parents/Children Should Expect:**

- A positive, safe environment
- Professional, friendly staff
- For your child to get dirty
- For your child to try something new
- To have fun

### **What to Bring Everyday:**

- Refillable water bottle
- Change of clothes
- Towel
- Bathing suit
- Sneakers (sandals are not good footwear for the activities we are doing.)
- Clothes that can get dirty
- A bag to put everything in
- A positive attitude

\*Please label EVERYTHING, it is hard to return things if they don't have a name on them\*

\*\*Medicine only with Doctor's Orders

### **Incident/Accidents**

In the event of an accident or an incident, the staff are to diffuse the situation, do an investigation as to what led up to the issue, and come to a conclusion as to the follow up. The incident/accident investigation will then be documented and presented at the time of pick up.

### **Emergency Procedures:**

In the event of an emergency situation, the children's safety is the main priority. If it is a weather emergency, the staff will seek the nearest shelter possible. If an indoor facility is needed, the children will be picked up in school vans and transported to the MCSO, Main Street Gym, or Middletown Area High School. The Summer Parks Program Director, MARA Recreation Program Supervisor, or the Summer Parks Program Manager will contact parents to inform them of where their child is.

### **Rainy Day:**

When there is rainy weather, the kids will play outside as long as the conditions are safe. If things become unsafe, the kids will find shelter and do structured activities. Sometimes, the structured activity may include a movie, however other options and game will be played as well. The SPP Director, SPP Manager, or MARA Recreation Program Supervisor will communicate with as much notice as possible about pick up or drop off location changes.

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**Pick Up/Drop Off:**

The earliest a staff person will be ready to receive in the morning is **7:30 am**. Pick up is by **4:30 pm**. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up on time if you cannot be there. There will be a \$10 late for children picked up more than 5 minutes late. If child is not picked up by 5:00 pm, there will be a \$25 late fee. Multiple instances of late pickup may result in your child not being able to attend.

When picking up, please have your I.D ready to present to staff, and the I.D should match the address on the emergency contact form. The same will go for anyone authorized to pick your child up.

**Field Trips:**

The children will go on three field trips this summer. Excellent behavior is expected on the trips. For field trips, we will have additional staff to ensure extra supervision and safety.

We are looking forward to a safe and fun summer and hope you are too!



**Basic Schedule:**

**Summer Parks Playground Schedule 2019**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>7:30- 9:30</b>	Arrival/ Independent Play				
<b>9:30-9:45</b>	Morning meeting				
<b>9:45- 10:30</b>	Group Activity				
<b>10:30-10:50</b>	Clean up, bathroom, packing to walk for lunch				
<b>10:50-11:10</b>	Walk to lunch/wash hands on arrival				
<b>11:15-11:45</b>	Lunch				
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	Change for pool and walk	Walk back to the park	Change for pool and walk	Walk back to the park	Change for pool and walk
<b>12:00- 1:00</b>	Swimming!	Independent Play	Swimming!	Independent Play	Swimming!
<b>1:00-3:00</b>	Swimming!	Group Activity	Swimming!	Group Activity	Swimming!
<b>1:30</b>	Sunscreen Check				
<b>2:30</b>	Sunscreen check				
<b>3:00</b>	Swimming!	Independent Play	Swimming!	Independent Play	Swimming!
<b>3:30</b>	Sunscreen Check				
<b>4:30</b>	Pick-up				

\*The schedule is subject to change based on weather, themed activities, and field trip weeks. \*

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