

21st Century Kids -- Thanksgiving Break Camp at Bell School

3730 N Oakley Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

We have prepared this document for your convenience and to answer many questions related to our camp operations. However, this document does not change or replace the general terms and conditions of registration as agreed to while registering your child.

We will accept campers starting at 8:00am daily.

Pickup and drop off campers at the South Gate on Waveland Ave.

(In case of severe weather, look for us at Doors 4/5, about 100 feet north of the South Gate)



Camp dropoff and pickup is very flexible within the hours of 8:00am to 6:00pm daily:

We start accepting campers at 8:00am daily. The South Gate on Waveland Avenue will be the primary pickup and dropoff location, but in inclement weather parents may come to Doors 4/5 (in purple above). Campers may be dropped off and picked up by parents and authorized adults at any time between 8:00am - 6:00pm, and for campers with offsite appointments, parents may pick up and drop off campers as needed throughout the day. Camp ends promptly at 6:00pm, and your child must be picked up prior to that time.

All campers must be picked up by a parent, guardian, or other authorized adult:

During the registration process, parents were provided the opportunity to designate authorized adults who may pick up their child from our camp. If you need to add someone as an authorized adult, please log in to your online account with us and update your child's profile. You can also contact us by phone at 773-761-5437 or via our website. However, we will require that any authorized adult must be added to your child's profile.

Get to know the online Day Planner, the efficient way to contact us during camp:

We ask that parents utilize the online Day Planner, a free service on our website that helps us manage all the camper scheduling and support requests we receive daily.

You can use Day Planner to notify us about scheduling concerns for your child, such as appointments, non-attendance days, and early dismissals, to name a few. After you submit a Day Planner item, our staff receives automated notifications about the event.

You can schedule and make changes to your child's Day Planner calendar when needed. Just log in to your parent account and your child's Day Planner link should be visible. For instructions on how to use the Day Planner, visit <https://aftercare.plus/dayplanner.pdf>

Alternative methods to contact us during camp:

Day Planner is the most accurate and efficient way to coordinate with us during camp.

For non-scheduling matters that do not require immediate attention, please use our office number (773) 761-5437, or the secure online contact form on our website.

Breakfast and lunch:

Depending on the time of their arrival, all campers will be provided a healthy breakfast and lunch at no cost. These are the same meals provided by CPS during the school year. We will be using Bell's multipurpose room for eating, tentatively at the following times:

Breakfast -- 8:45 to 9:30am
Lunch -- 11:45am to 12:30pm

Children are welcome to bring bag lunches and snacks, but note that we do not have the ability to reheat or refrigerate food items, and please plan accordingly. As the school has policies concerning food in classrooms, and as we want to keep outside areas clean and tidy, we will expect our campers to eat at the scheduled times in the multipurpose room. However, exceptions can be made if your child needs to eat or drink on a set schedule. In such instances, please use your child's Day Planner to help us comply with your request.

Also, when sending food and drinks, please be aware that many children have peanut allergies, so try to avoid sending food that contains peanuts, and we prefer no soda pop.

Snacks:

From 10am to 5pm daily (excluding time designated for lunch), we plan to offer a variety of free snack items for our campers to choose from. **Campers may choose 1 item each from Categories A, B, and C, and our new Category D (fruit) currently has no limit:**

Category A

Domino's cheese pizza
Domino's cheese and sausage pizza
Beef hot dogs on a bun (with condiments)
Tossed salad (lettuce, tomato, cucumber)

Category B

Bag of Doritos
Bag of Cheetos
Freshly made buttered popcorn
Freshly made Rice Krispie Treats

Category C

Capri Sun Roarin' Waters (various flavors)

Category D

Red apple, green apple, or banana

* Snack items are subject to availability. Domino's Pizza is scheduled to deliver twice daily.

The snack selection email system is not available at this time. We've noted those children who should not be getting our snacks, but we can't ensure they do not receive a snack from other campers.

COVID-19 procedures and guidance:

In our 2023-24 break camps, our implementation of COVID-19 best practices depends on guidance provided by the CDC, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and as applicable, the Chicago Public Schools. This guidance may change during the course of our camp and may become more or less restrictive. Also, guidance is expected to be slightly different for indoor activities as compared to outdoor activities.

Our COVID guidance when indoors currently includes optionally wearing a cloth mask, maintaining reasonable social distancing and relatively small group sizes, and keeping work areas clean. During breakfast, lunch, and snack times, seating will be arranged so campers have access to suitable social distancing space, and they will be encouraged to maintain that space. If any child feels they need more space, let a staff member know.

Children who begin to show signs of illness during camp:

We understand that there may be instances when a child starts to display signs of illness (fever, cough, runny nose, etc.). We are dedicating space for kids who might benefit from it for a variety of reasons, including when not feeling well. If your child starts to display signs of illness, we will attempt to contact you using information you provided as part of your online account and during camp registration. Please keep this information updated.

Backpack Check-In:

We are assigning spaces for every child to store a backpack with their personal items daily. Campers who need access to their backpacks may do so throughout the day. Please note that every camper will be able to check one backpack, and no other items may be stored. Items must either be in or attached to the backpack.

Grade level meetings, scheduling, and encouraging participation in multiple activities:

Our camp focus is to provide a meaningful camp enrichment experience encompassing a variety of indoor and outdoor activities daily. Activities are planned so that campers have engaging options both indoors and out. Grade level meetings are usually held daily. Grade level meetings allow us to update campers on the day's available activities so that they may make informed choices and benefit from all that our camp has to offer.

Please note that throughout the camp day there are many activities open to all campers, but there may be space limitations in a given activity area, so from time-to-time children may have to wait their turn to participate in activities of their choice. There are also grade level activities planned, at which time campers may be redirected to other activities.

Campers in grades 4-7 often require specialized and/or advanced activities to keep them engaged, and we have found they are also 'influencers' in the sense that if they frequent a particular area, younger campers often follow. As such, our grade 4-7 campers may receive special privileges (additional exclusive activity) or incentives (LEGO sets or robots, as examples). While our younger campers typically don't receive the same privileges or incentives, we note that all campers have access to all of our activity areas daily and take home a variety of free items (LEGO sets, arts and crafts projects, etc.).

Social interaction and social skills:

COVID negatively impacted children's ability to interact with others, and for younger children, many have significant gaps in social skills that they typically learn in the school environment. In our grade level meetings, social interaction is discussed in some detail (using various scenarios), highlighting camp expectations (keep our hands to ourselves, be respectful of others and materials, take turns with items that are limited, etc.). Despite this, we see some children struggling with using words to resolve stressful situations; they simply don't know what to say or do, which can lead to unacceptable behaviors, although there is no need for that given the circumstances. We ask that parents discuss with their kids that camp is a great place to make new friends and just have fun being kids. In social situations that are stressful or awkward, campers should take a deep breath, think about ways to use their words to resolve or better understand situations before prejudging (ask questions, express their feelings), and relax in our 'Free to Be Me' social space as needed.

Chef's Kitchen for Kids:

In the afternoons our campers have the opportunity to learn valuable culinary skills while creating some very flavorful and kid-friendly treats. This week we plan to make s'mores, cranberry and blueberry muffins, smoothies, and Rice Krispie treats.

Toys, trading cards, phones, cameras, wearables, and other items from home:

We have an extensive variety of activities for our campers, but a few children bring stuffed animals or toys in their backpacks to either play with or show other campers. While we have staff monitoring all our campers throughout the day, we cannot be held responsible for any items campers bring from home. Kids leave things on tables, chairs, and on floors, and the next camper in that location often thinks the item was provided by us. We also see items get wet, dirty, or otherwise damaged just in the normal course of the day, and we note that some of the stuffed animals and toys campers bring often have sentimental or economic value and may not be replaceable. Do not bring them to camp!

If your child doesn't need a mobile phone, please don't send it to camp. Children show off their phones to others, causing distractions and inviting damage or theft. Campers may only use phones in the presence of staff members to contact parents as necessary.

With advances in technology, wearables (such as cameras and phone watches) are readily available and reasonably priced. We understand that they are valuable to parents to help keep kids safe. However, to help us ensure our campers' privacy, pictures, videos, audio recordings, etc. are not permitted during camp, and therefore wearables are not allowed.

Trading cards (such as Pokémon or magic cards) are especially off-limits at camp. As they are trading cards, kids want to trade them, but trades may be based on kid considerations instead of rarity or value. Campers should never trade or give away any of their property.

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