



Brewster Rec Playground News

S U M M E R 2 0 2 4

Welcome to Summer '24!

Welcome to the Brewster Recreation Department's Summer Playground Program. The Brewster Rec team is excited for another fun, game-packed summer. Our goal is to provide each and every child with a fun and safe place to play, learn, and build friendships.

The Playground Program will have Co-Assistant Directors this year! Chris Barber and Greer Cohen.

Our first step in preparing for the summer is to hire a caring staff willing to work at achieving the goals the Recreation Department has set for the summer. As in past years, the summer's focus will be on "safe fun in the sun." We would like all children to feel comfortable during the time they spend with us here at the Summer Program. To reach this goal, many of 2023 staff have returned. The 2024 summer staff is comprised of PE instructor Joe Powers, Art Instructor Matt Cahill, Grace Curtis, Brad & Josh Hagopian, Mathew Campbell, Dylan & Carolina Darcy, Asa & Caleb McLaughlin, Chris Barber, Dylan Joy, Julia Wilkinson, Landon Shuttleworth, Sadie Barnhorst, Crystal Mangelinkx, Molly Filteau, Jimmy Anzavino,

Addie Parrott, Rollie Bassett, Mara Dwyer, Conor Pike, Will Christopher, Evan & Alex Melano, Brooke

Ellis, Abi McBride, and Brielle Shevchik as our counselors. All staff is certified in CPR & First Aid. We also have staff that work one-on-one with some of our kids. Each session, kids will participate in different art projects, games, field trips, and themed days. The entire staff is eager to start working with your children beginning Wednesday, June 26th. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to do so. We are confident you will like what you see!

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions!

DATES & HOURS:
MONDAY—FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH—AUGUST 9
MORNING SESSION: 8:30 AM—12:00 PM
(EARLY DROP OFF 7:45-8 AM)

ALL GRADES MENTIONED REFLECT THE GRADE YOUR CHILD WILL BE ENTERING IN THE FALL.

Brewster Rec Summer Rules

A list of rules has been established for the well-being of all children. We fully expect each child to abide by these rules and each parent or guardian to support the consequences resulting from a child unable to do so.

If an infraction has been committed the child will be given a warning. These warnings will be documented by the counselor of the child and given to the directors of the program as soon as possible. At the director's discretion, continued neglect of the rules may lead to a loss of field trip privileges and the possible suspension or expulsion from the program.

Please ensure your child understands the Playground Rules stated below!

PLAYGROUND RULES **CHILDREN MUST REMEMBER:**

- 1 Respect counselors and each other. (No putdowns!)
- 2 Stay with the group!
- 3 No fighting, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, throwing rocks, etc. (Keep your hands to yourself!)
- 4 Use appropriate language at all times.
- 5 Children are not allowed to leave the programming areas that include the gym, cafeteria, outside soccer field, playground or baseball field.
- 6 No going into the woods.
- 7 No climbing or going behind the bleachers in the gym.
- 8 No entering the teacher's room unless you are going to summer class.
- 9 No loitering in the bathrooms.
- 10 No running around the school.
- 11 Leave personal belongings at home. (Toys, Smart devices, Game Systems.)
12. No Gum

For Safety's Sake

As mentioned, safety is our main goal, but it has two parts: physical and emotional. Everyone has the right to their own physical space which must not be violated by a counselor or another child (see rule #3). Also, each child should expect no verbal abuse, which is every bit as dangerous as physical abuse. With this in mind, it is stressed that no "put downs" be used while at the playground. This falls under rule #1.

For safety's sake, attendance will be taken on a daily basis. It is important to know who is present at all times. If you drop your child off after 8:30 am, please bring them directly to the Rec office. We want to be sure that your child is accounted for at all times!

If you are picking a child up early, please send in a note to the counselor who will record the change on his or her daily attendance sheet. If someone other than a parent or legal guardian is to pick up your child, please let the program director know. If it is to be a long-term situation, please send a note detailing the time frame. This step is considered a necessary precaution.

Early drop off will be from 7:45 am until 8 am. Regular drop off will be from 8:30-9 am. The morning program ends at noon. **All children must be picked up by NOON.** Repeatedly late pick-up may result in a fine. Many of our staff have other jobs to go to, and Mike and Andy may not be in the office to stay with your child.

Thank you for your cooperation.

What Is Appropriate Clothing?

Due to the nature of our program the children are active a good portion of the day. For safety reasons they should be dressed accordingly. Most importantly, **children should wear sneakers to Rec!** Other than that, whatever is comfortable and allows freedom of movement is acceptable. Additionally, we often work with paints and other art supplies that could stain clothing, so it is not wise to dress your child in apparel that you do not want to see damaged.

Lastly, if it is going to be a sunny day, you may want to take the precaution of applying sunscreen to your child before sending them off to Brewster Rec for a day of fun in the sun!



Pick-up & Drop-off Procedures

THE PICK-UP & DROP-OFF POLICY:

- 1 **DROP-OFF:** Parents, guardians, or babysitters will drop-off children using the driveway in the back of the school. There will be stations set up, and a counselor will guide you to the appropriate one. Cars must come to a complete stop before a child is allowed to exit or enter a vehicle. **EARLY DROP OFF IS FROM 7:45-8AM. REGULAR DROP OFF IS FROM 8:30-9AM.**
- 2 **PICK-UP:** Just like in the morning, pick-up will take place in the rear of the building near the gymnasium. Parents or guardians will be picking up the same way they dropped off, via stations. Please do **not** get out of your car to locate your children as this may cause delays for other parents. When the counselor comes to your window, give them the name of the child or children you will be picking up. The children will be called and will meet you in an appropriate station of pick-up determined by the counselors on duty.
- 3 Do **not** pass a car that has stopped to drop-off or pick-up a child.
- 4 Please be patient the first few days, as we are still working out the kinks! If there is rain or severe weather, pick up procedures are subject to change.

Transportation Policy

The Town of Brewster Recreation Department is not responsible for transportation to or from the program. Employees are prohibited from transporting program participants. Field trip transportation will be provided by bus or van unless there is an illness or behavioral problem during the field trip. In this situation the Recreation Director or Assistant Director will bring the child back to the Eddy School and notify the parent/guardian.

Odds & Ends from the Director

- There will be theme days this summer. They are indicated on our summer calendar of events and are further explained on this newsletter's last page.
- **We do not provide snacks!** Please make sure your child comes with a snack & beverage. **All food brought to playground program needs to be nut free.** Three and a half hours is a long time to go without food or drink. If your child has something with nuts in it, they will eat in the Rec office.
- Children should wear play clothes. They will get dirty.
- **Food 4 Kids will provide lunches for those who need them. Please have your child tell their counselor at drop off if you need one.**
- If you need to get in touch with us, please call the Recreation Department at 508-896-9430 or email Mike Gradone at mgradone@brewster-ma.gov.

**If you are not picking up your child and you want the staff to know who is, please either drop off a note with the staff or call the office to let them know.*



Medical Policy

The following policies are for the protection of the participants and the staff at the Summer Program. Unfortunately, the facilities are not conducive to accommodating children who are not feeling well. Our staff is CPR and First Aid certified and therefore will have the final decision as to when a child needs to be sent home.

For example, your child would be sent home if:

- They are running an elevated temperature (100.0°F or higher).
- They show signs of any type of rash.
- They have a contagious illness/condition.
- They are nauseous, vomiting or are complaining of a headache.
- They receive an injury that requires further medical attention.

Children who are sent home with a contagious illness/condition will not be re-admitted to the program without a doctor's note. For any emergency medical situation, the Brewster Fire Department will be notified first, followed by the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian is instructed to pick-up a child, transportation for the child must be arranged within the hour. If we cannot reach the parent/guardian within 20 minutes, we will call the first person listed as child's emergency contact. A message will then be left with parents/guardians to notify them as to who the child is being sent home with.

Medications

Staff are not allowed to administer any prescription or over the counter medications. Please administer all medications prior to the start of the program. Please do not send your child to the program with any type of medication. If your child is in need of medication in the event of a bee sting please bring this to our attention upon registering your child.

**If your child or anyone in your family is showing signs of Covid-19, please keep them home and notify the Rec Dept. ASAP.*

Discipline Policy

The Brewster Recreation Department endorses fair and age-appropriate program rules, which ensure a safe and orderly environment. Program staff, parents and guardians working together, can teach respect for others, the necessity for group rules and the need for peaceful resolution of differences. Within our program, participants are expected to adhere to the same behaviors that are required within the classroom. Recreation Department Staff have final say over what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behavior.

Examples of Discipline Procedures:

When a child's behavior departs from the program's standards of acceptable behavior, any of the following may take place as deemed necessary by Recreation Department Staff.

- Conference with child and staff members
- Loss of program privileges
- Removal from group
- Parents notified
- Loss of field trip/special event privileges
- Suspension from program. Suspension length can vary from 1 day to permanent suspension and is at the discretion of the Recreation Director.

Wacky Wednesdays

This summer, the playground program has scheduled seven dress-up days in coordination with our Wacky Wednesdays. This summer's dress-up days will be:

Wednesday, July 3rd: Represent Your Country

Wednesday, July 10th: Sports Jersey Day

Wednesday, July 17th: Ocean Theme

Wednesday, July 24th: Crazy Hat day

Wednesday, July 31st: Super Hero Day

Wednesday, August 7th: Crazy Color Day

End of the day:

All participants are brought to a designated area by 11:40 am to prepare for morning dismissal. We ask all parents/guardians not to arrive until at least 11:45 am. Counselors will be located in the back of the building prepared to start letting cars in for station pick up. If you are picking up early or late, please come to the Rec office.

It promises to be a fun-filled summer...we're glad you decided to join us! If you have any questions, please call Brewster Rec at 508-896-9430.

Please see below for all our field trips in 2024

Fun on the Flats
Beach Days—First Light Beach
Mini Golf @ Harbor Lights
Brewster Ladies Library
Brewster Fire Station
Brewster Town Hall

In-House Entertainment

Amazin' Gamin' - Game Truck
Tie Dye Day
Shark Day
Trevor the Juggler
Sport Kite Flying
Brewster Whitecaps

Brewster Recreation Health agreement Brewster Recreation will do the following:

- ⇒ Provide a safe and healthy environment
- ⇒ Provide supervision to all children according to CDC and Massachusetts guidelines
- ⇒ We will have a separate space for any child that is displaying Covid-19 symptoms
- ⇒ Contact a parent or guardian if their child is showing symptoms
- ⇒ Will notify a parent or guardian if their child was in close contact with another person that tests positive
- ⇒ Communicate and health and safety concerns to all families in the program
- ⇒ Continue to monitor data from the Town, State, and Federal government

Families will need to do the following:

- ⇒ Conduct a daily health checklist each morning before they leave the house
- ⇒ Refrain from send their child to Rec if they show any symptoms of Covid-19
- ⇒ Contact the Rec Dept. if their child is absent due to symptoms or a positive test
- ⇒ Pick up your child with in 30 minutes if notified that your child is showing symptoms
- ⇒ Abide by all current guidelines regarding a return to Rec after any illness
- ⇒ Children will not be allowed to bring any personal items to Rec
- ⇒ Make sure your contact information is up to date in the Rec's database
- ⇒ Sign off on the Recreation Department's Health Agreement before their child starts the program

If you do test positive for covid, isolating is key. You should isolate until you have a negative rapid test or for at least 5 days. Any close contacts need to quarantine if they are not vaccinated, and if they are vaccinated, they should test five or more days after exposure just to be sure. Making is recommended and the right thing to do for everyone for 5-10 days.

For more information please contact Brewster Recreation at 508-896-9430 or email Recreation Director Mike Gradone, or Assistant Director Andy Havens. mgradone@brewster-ma.gov OR ahavens@brewster-ma.gov

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you and your family!