



## 2024 Family Handbook

**Wheeler Summer**

**The Wheeler School**

**357 Walker Street,**

**Seekonk, MA, 02771**

Camp Office: 508.336.8377

FAX: 508.336.9136

E-mail: [summercamp@wheelerschool.org](mailto:summercamp@wheelerschool.org)



## Welcome

In this handbook, you will find everything you need to know to have a successful experience at Wheeler Summer Camp. We invite you to read it over and bring your questions to our attention by email or call us anytime!

## Administration

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| ● Camp Director  | Danielle Levya      |
| ● Assistant Camp Director &<br>Health & Wellness Manager | Bea Furtado         |
| ● Camp Coach- Behavior Specialist                        | Derya Sari          |
| ● Camp Administrator                                     | Tabby Monteiro      |
| ● Head of School   | Allison Gaines Pell |
| ● Chief Operating Office                                 | Ian Moorhouse       |

## Wheeler Summer Phone Numbers

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| ● Camp Office     | (508) 336.8377   |
| ● Camp Office Fax | (508) 336.9136   |
| ● Camp Email      | <a href="mailto:summercamp@wheelerschool.org">summercamp@wheelerschool.org</a> |

## Wheeler Summer Camp Hours of Operation

## **SUMMER 2024**

Drop-off:	Between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.
Pick-up:	Between 3:45 and 4:00 p.m.
Extended Day late pick-up ends by:	5:30 p.m.

Wheeler Summer Camp features busy days full of camp activities and many opportunities to explore new things, have fun, build confidence, and make long-lasting friendships! Wheeler Summer Camp is owned and operated by The Wheeler School, Inc.

### **CONFIDENCE. FUN. FRIENDSHIP.**

Wheeler Summer Camp's goal is simple and clear; we are all about giving campers an opportunity to be active in an outdoor environment, explore new things, have fun, build confidence, and make long-lasting friendships.

We achieve this goal by hiring incredible role models and providing programming that is progressive and fun while building strong social skills, with many opportunities to develop a sense of belonging and, which in turn, builds self-esteem and well-being.

For summer 2024, we have continued to enhance our programs and offerings and truly believe that you, and most importantly your children, will be happy campers. Campers will have the opportunity to progress through our different levels of programming-based on their age and abilities. All of our equipment is age-appropriately sized and fitted accordingly.

Our Summer Camp program, for children ages 3 to 15, is a day program filled with fun and engaging activities. Campers are placed in groups based on their age. Campers who want to pursue a hobby or interest in more depth can choose our two week-long

Specialty Camps, which offer a half-day focus on one topic coupled with a half-day of traditional camp activities.

Our end goal is that by the end of your child's summer with us, they will have improved swimming skills, developed a new skill or passion, and met a new friend or connected with an adult.

## Camp Offerings

**June Bug Camp**                      **Ages: 3-4 years old**

**Lower Camp**                        **Ages: 5-6 years old**

With a focus on structure and age-appropriate activities, the June Bugs Camp program offers the support and foundation needed for campers to build confidence, have fun, and develop many new friendships. The programs include fun, enrichment-based activities that build gross and fine motor skills in an environment that encourages connections. Every session provides an opportunity for campers to explore through nature-play, sports and games, art, music, drama, and imaginative play. We consider our beautiful campus to be the camper's outdoor classroom; however, our air-conditioned classrooms are available during inclement weather and quiet/rest time. From the language that we use to the activities implemented, the counselors are here to support all aspects of the child's development while getting a taste for a true outdoor camp experience. The June Bugs Camp offers a half-day option which ends at noon.

*Each group within June Bugs Camp is strategically put together based on age. Campers must be toilet trained by the start of camp.*

**Middle Camp**                        **Ages: 7-9 years old**

Middle Camp will introduce campers to sports & games, nature exploration, music, performing arts, adventure, archery, and much more.

Middle Campers interested in pursuing a specific activity in more detail may also sign up for Specialty Camps, which offer a half-day focus on one topic/activity and the second half of the day has traditional Day Camp programming.

**Upper Camp**                        **Ages: 10-12 years old**

Upper Campers will have an opportunity to participate in a number of activities and programs: sports & games, nature exploration, music, performing arts, outdoor adventure, archery, ropes course, and much more.

Upper Campers are eligible to sign up for Specialty Camps, which offer a half-day focus on one topic coupled with a half-day of Day Camp programming.

### **Senior Camp**

**Ages: 13-15 years old**

Senior Campers will have an opportunity to participate in a number of activities and programs: sports and games, nature exploration, music, performing arts, outdoor adventure, archery, ropes course, and much more. Every afternoon, Senior Campers will have a choice block, where they can choose adventure options such as hiking, geotagging, and more. Another option may be creating a project that helps give back to the camp. As the oldest campers, they will develop and grow their leadership characteristics.

## **Specialty Camps**

### **Soccer Camp**

**Ages: 6-12 years old**

Wheeler Summer Camp has partnered with Bayside FC Soccer group to offer a half-day of soccer instruction with a half-day of traditional camp activities. Soccer Camp is a great fit whether you're a beginner or an experienced player: our program is designed to help players of all skill levels improve on the fundamentals of the game, and enhance technical and tactical soccer skills. Campers are divided into groups by age and ability. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

## **Volleyball Camp**

**Ages: 8-15 years old**

Our Volleyball Specialty Camp is an age-based camp that offers an opportunity for those campers who have an interest in the sport to explore all areas of volleyball. From building skills, learning game strategies, and even scrimmaging with each other, campers will become fully immersed in the sport led by talented high school players and coaches. After a half day revolving around volleyball, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions within the two week period.

## **Science Lab**

**Ages: 6-9 years old**

The Farm is our classroom and this camp will foster your child's curiosity about the world. Every day we will start with a treasure hunt as we search for materials for our activities. We will explore scientific concepts through discussion, reading aloud, and daily activities. Working collaboratively, campers will make lava, create crystals, build a model treehouse, and synthesize a farm field guide. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

**\*There may be food experiments.\***

## **Tennis Camp**

**Ages: 6-12 years old**

In partnership with Providence Tennis Academy, Wheeler Summer Camp is excited to offer a fundamental, rigorous, and right-sized tennis program for our campers. Campers will focus on improving the fundamental skills of tennis. All instruction will be hands-on, and coaches will work in small groups based on age and skill level. Each session is designed to develop players' skills, as well as match preparation. After a half-day of

those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

### **Horseback Riding Camp**

**Ages: 7-14 years old**

Horseback Riding Camp is designed to give campers an opportunity to experience horsemanship by participating in the Palmer River Equestrians Horsemanship Program. Campers will learn how to take care of a horse, as well as riding lessons. Campers will go to the Palmer River Equestrian Center for a half-day and will participate in traditional camp for the other half of the day. The staff at The Palmer River Equestrian Center will familiarize participants with the art of horsemanship. Campers will actively participate in grooming, tacking, basic stable management, and safe riding skills. The goal of the program is to introduce the responsibilities and commitment of horse care, while improving riding skills and building confidence, self-esteem, and accountability.

Group 1 will be for campers ages 7-9, and Group 2 will be for campers ages 10-12. One group will attend the stable in the morning and then return for an afternoon of traditional camp activities. The other group will participate in traditional camp activities in the morning and then head to the stable for the afternoon.

Drop-off and Pick-up will be at the Wheeler Seekonk campus. Round-trip transportation is provided to and from Palmer River.

### **Jewelry Making Camp**

**Ages: 6-9 years old**

Our Jewelry Making Camp allows campers who are interested in learning about the jewelry industry to spend some time exploring how to design and make trendy polymer clay, wire, and beaded jewelry. Campers will have the opportunity to learn skills and techniques from a local artist! Students will create jewelry with their own personal



touch, while showcasing their artistic capabilities. After a half day of creative and artistic thinking, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two period period.

### **Sports and Adventure Camp**

**Ages: 6-9 years old**

Our Sports and Adventure Camp provides opportunities to our campers who are more sports focused to spend time learning and playing a new sport everyday. In addition to traditional sports like ultimate frisbee, flag football, and soccer, campers will also have the chance to spend time exploring our nature-filled outdoor spaces at Camp through hiking, biking, and other outdoor activities. After a half day revolving around sports and adventures, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

### **XR Lab**

**Ages: 10-15 years old**

Has your camper ever wondered how Frozen, Toy Story, or Shrek were made? In this summer camp enrichment, campers will be exposed to a range of cutting edge tools and techniques for telling stories in 3D. This includes creating original fashion, characters, environments, animations, and stories using techniques featured in Disney and Pixar films. Virtual reality headsets, motion capture suits, electronic instruments, and more will be available to design and develop.

This enrichment will be held in Providence to allow for creating their own 3D stories in The Wheeler Schools' XR Lab. Campers will return to Seekonk for the afternoon where they will experience our traditional camp model. Campers will be able to participate in various activities, including some swim sessions within the two week period. Drop-off

and pick-up will occur at Wheeler's Seekonk campus. Round-trip transportation will be provided to and from the Providence campus.

### **Lego Fun**                      **Ages: 6-9 years old**

Campers are already naturally gifted creators. With that in mind, they will receive added inspiration from our instructors and will dive into our massive collections of Lego® parts. While they build elaborate objects, structures, and vehicles, they will explore fundamental principles of engineering and physics. They also learn to collaborate and create without fear of mistakes. The experience is joyful, all while making a long-lasting impact. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

### **Little Explorers Camp**                      **Ages: 6-9 years old**

Our Little Explorers Specialty Camp allows our middle aged campers to spend half of their day for two full weeks participating in activities that explore our outdoor spaces here at Wheeler Summer Camp. They will participate in activities that are nature based, using their gross motor skills while climbing and hiking, and learning about the nature that surrounds them everyday. Most of their half-day will be spent outdoors, rain or shine, doing various activities in areas such as Fire Pond, the Pageant Grounds or Junebug Mountain. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

## **Chess Camp**      **Ages: 8-15 years old**

Do you play chess? In this two-week camp, we emphasize chess fundamentals and good sportsmanship. In addition to a lot of play, we'll practice basic endgames, hone our visual skills by solving puzzles, and learn fun games like the Knight's Tour and Antichess. Beginners are welcome; they should know that it only takes a few days before their first game of chess and that there are some fun games along the way. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

## **Gathering the Magic**      **Ages: 8-15 years old**

Campers will be immersed in the enthralling world of MTG while learning deck building, exploring strategic gameplay, and delving deep in the game's lore. With daily mini-tournaments and drafting sessions, it's the perfect environment for both beginners and seasoned players to enhance their skills. Plus, there's the chance to win prizes, adding an extra layer of excitement and competition to this fun-filled adventure. After a half-day of those activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

## **Pickleball Camp**      **Ages: 7-15 years old**

Pickleball Camp is sure to offer fast-paced action, friendly competition, and skill development on the court. Our expert instructors will guide players of all levels through drills, strategy sessions, and exciting games. Campers will enjoy the sunshine while perfecting their serves, dinks, volleys, and sportsmanship. After a half-day of those

activities, campers will transition to our traditional camp model where they will be able to experience and participate in various activities, including some swim sessions in the two week period.

### **Counselor In Training (C.I.T.) Program (Rising Sophomores and Juniors)**

The four-week progression will enable the C.I.T. to explore all aspects of Wheeler Summer Camp. The program involves daily training topics for basic counselor skills, personal and team building initiatives, group and activity observations, and will end with hands-on experience rotating in an assigned group and activity.

Following the conclusion of the training, the C.I.T's will be evaluated by the direct supervisor (group/activity head counselor) and the C.I.T. Coordinators. The criteria for evaluation will be reviewed during the C.I.T's first week of camp. These evaluations will be used to decide who will be considered for a Junior Counselor position. There is no guarantee that once the C.I.T. has successfully completed the program, he or she will be hired by Wheeler Summer Camp. We hire a limited number of Junior Counselors (between 16 & 17 years old) to ensure the appropriate number of adult staff to supervise the campers and Junior Counselors and may not always have an available position.

### **Swim Program**

The Pods Swim Program provides all swim instruction for all Wheeler Summer Camp groups, from ages 3 to 15. Each child enrolled in a traditional camp will participate in a daily instructional swim. Specialty campers will be scheduled to swim in the afternoon, every other day.

We are thrilled to be partnering with [Pods Swimming](#) again this summer. June Bug Campers will have a lesson each morning. All other traditional camp groups will be participating in our traditional two swim sessions per day.

***For any camper in Middle Camp or above (for participation in open swim opportunities that may potentially take place at the end of their swim lesson):*** At the beginning of each camp session, for each camper's safety, they will participate in a swim test, guided by our lifeguards, to determine their level/ability to swim. Any child who successfully passes this test will be given a colored wristband to acknowledge that they are safe to swim in the deeper end of the pool. This has been implemented for the safety of our campers. This band is the campers' for the summer. This band can be taken off, so please be mindful that the camper has it for when they are at camp.

The ultimate goal of Pods Swimming is for children to be safe in the water, to love the water, and to enjoy the sport of swimming for a lifetime. We work with each child individually to provide the best possible learning environment to reach their highest potential.

## **Camp Staff**

Wheeler Summer has hired a team of seasoned and enthusiastic staff who are committed to your child's growth. They are all excellent role models, chosen for their ability to create a fun, safe, and diverse community for kids. Each member of our senior staff, including our Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director and Division Leaders, are experienced educators. Some teachers are from The Wheeler School or other nearby schools. All staff will be hired on the basis of a thorough background check (national fingerprint and sexual offenders national registry), 3 written references, and all staff members are required to participate in a 20 hr staff training program. Hiring policies, including background checks, are available upon written request. We know the impact a good camp experience has on the development of a child, therefore we carefully select

each staff member for their interest in children and their experience in education. Our committed team leads by example as they maintain a safe environment with a healthy balance of fun and challenge.

## **General Safety**

We know that in order to provide a fun and exciting summer camp experience, our campers need to be safe. A majority of our staff are trained and certified in CPR/First Aid and have completed training for CDC Heads Up Concussion protocol for all ages. Staff members are also trained in fire drills, lost swimmer, lost camper, and extreme weather protocol. These requirements fulfill regulations set by the Massachusetts Board of Health. **Some basic safety concerns that we enforce daily are that each camper wears closed-toed shoes, bug spray, and sunscreen.** We also require each camper to bring their own refillable water bottle. We provide cold water to refill water bottles in several locations around camp. Because we are an outdoor camp, safety starts by being prepared for the elements and staying well hydrated.

## **Camp Policies**

The Wheeler School and/or Wheeler Summer Camp does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, staff recruitment, and hiring, or other programs and activities administered by the school.

Camp parents have the right to review the camp's hiring policy, health care policy, and grievance procedures. These policies and procedures are available upon request from the Camp Office.

*Wheeler Summer Camps must comply with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Town of Seekonk Board of Health.*

## **Registration Policies**

Wheeler Summer Camp offers secure online registration for all summer camp programs through CampInTouch. Please visit [www.wheelersummercamp.com](http://www.wheelersummercamp.com) for information on all of our programs and to register online.

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

- All registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All registrations must include all completed forms and a non-refundable \$200.00/session deposit.
- Full payment is required by July 15th, 2024.
- If a family chose our payment plans, accounts will be charged on April 15, May 15, June 15 and the last payment on July 15, 2024.
- This camp complies with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105CMR 430.000) and is licensed by the Town of Seekonk Board of Health.

## **REFUNDS**

Wheeler Summer Camp is not obligated to refund tuition for any applicant or participant who withdraws for any reason, including illness or injury. The deposit is not refundable and not transferable. No refund or reduction in fees is possible for a child who arrives late, leaves early, or attends only part of a session.

## CAMP DISCOUNTS

At Wheeler Summer Camp, we understand that camp is a wonderful summer option for children – and often a necessity for busy working parents. Please make sure to check these discount options to take full advantage of all discounts.

- **Entire Summer Discount:** All campers registering for the entire summer will receive a 10% discount from their entire tuition.
- **Sibling Discount:** Families registering multiple children will receive 5% off for each additional child.

## WHILE YOUR CHILD IS AT CAMP

### Communication

Open communication is key to you and your child having a successful camp experience. We welcome all your questions and concerns. From September 1-May 31 please send email inquiries to [summercamp@wheelerschool.org](mailto:summercamp@wheelerschool.org). From June 1-August 30 you may also call our Camp Office at (508-336-8377. We will get a response to you within 24 hours. For more camper-specific conversations, each camp has a Division Leader. These Division Leaders oversee all groups within June Bug, Lower, Middle, Upper, and Senior Camps. These Division Leaders are educators and are here to guide and assist our counselors and campers through a great summer. During the summer season, you can also have communication with your camper's Division Leader for more personal questions and concerns. Throughout each session, you will receive regular emails regarding current events, themes of the week, and specific information relevant to your camper.



## **Absence**

Please email [summercamp@wheelerschool.org](mailto:summercamp@wheelerschool.org), or call the office at (508) 336-8377, if your child is going to miss one or more days of camp by drop-off time of the first day of the absence. If you know in advance that your camper will miss certain days, a note or email with details is much appreciated.

## **Drop Off and Pick-Up Procedures**

### **At the Farm**

Drop-off at The Farm **begins at 8:30 am and ends promptly at 9:00am.**

Pick-up at The Farm **begins at 3:45 pm each day and ends promptly at 4:00pm.**

***Drop off Protocol:*** Please drop off between 8:30 am - 9:00 am. Drop-off will take place from your vehicle only. Please do not get out of your car or attempt to park on the side of the road. Please do not park in the parking lots and walk over. You will not be allowed to walk your child in. You will need to have your placard placed on the dashboard in the right-hand corner. The placard should have campers in your family listed. This is so that our camp staff can clearly identify who they are checking in.

Enter Camp using the Walker Street (350 Walker Street, Seekonk MA 02771) entrance. Follow the driveway and wait in line until your car enters the check-in area. There will be staff along the way to help guide you. Please put your car in park and remain in your vehicle. Roll down your car windows and be sure to unbuckle your child or if the child is capable, instruct them to unbuckle themselves. No one should get out of the car.

A camp staff member will approach your car. That member of the camp staff will then bring the camper to check-in at their assigned group drop-off area.

**Pick-Up Protocol:** Similar to drop-off, please arrive at campus between 3:45 pm - 4:00 pm. Do not get out of your car or attempt to park on the side of the road. Please do not park your car in any of the parking lots and walk over. We will not be able to dismiss your child this way. You will need to have your placard placed on the dashboard in the right-hand corner. The placard should have campers in your family listed. This is so that our camp staff can clearly identify who is getting picked up.

Enter camp using the Walker Street Entrance. Follow the driveway and wait in line until your car enters the check-in area. There will be staff along the way to help guide you. Please put your car in park and remain in your vehicle. Your child will be brought to and put into the vehicle.

**Pick-Up by Someone Other Than Parent/Guardian:** If a camper is going home with anyone other than the parent/guardian, we must have an Authorized Grown Up Form signed by the parent/guardian stating who the alternative pick-up people are. This form can be found in your CampInTouch portal. Under no circumstance will a camper be placed in a car with anyone who is not listed on this form unless we receive permission from the parent/guardian in writing. Identification will be asked for.

**Early Dismissal:** We encourage all campers to stay for the full camp day to ensure they are getting the most out of their camp experience. Early dismissals will only be allowed in emergency situations. **If you need to pick up your child early, you must notify the camp office in advance (24 hours). Visitors, including parents, will not be permitted to walk through campus. Early dismissals are very disruptive to the camp experience, please understand, all early dismissals must take place at 12:30 pm or 2:30pm.** Early dismissals will not be allowed after 2:30 pm. When you arrive at Camp, please pull into the main parking lot which is located on the left at the end of the driveway (Walker St. entrance), and call the Camp Office. Please have a form of ID with you. A camp staff member will walk your child to your vehicle, check that your ID matches camp records, and your camper will be dismissed.

**Late Arrival:** Arriving on time between 8:30 am and 8:55 am at The Farm makes for a smooth transition and start to your campers' day. While summertime is all about relaxing and getting out of the busyness of the school year we appreciate your camper arriving on time in the morning. By arriving on time, you eliminate unnecessary stress on your camper and can say goodbye in a calm and timely manner. Particularly for our June Bug and Lower Campers, arriving on time and maintaining a consistent routine help to ease stress and anxiety. **If your child arrives at camp after 9:00 am, please pull into the Field House parking lot which is located at 640 Prospect Street, Seekonk MA and call the Camp Office.** A member of the Camp Team will come to your car to take them into Camp to be signed in. **Please do not get out of your car. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have parents enter the campus.** Please notify us by calling the office at (508) 336-8377 with an updated E.T.A.

**Half Day Dismissals (June Bug Camp):** Please plan on dismissing your camper from the Field House parking lot which is located at 640 Prospect Street, Seekonk MA.

**Late Pick-Up:** Communication is key! If you know that you are going to be late, please give us notice ahead of time by calling the Camp Office at (508) 336-8377. If you are late picking up your child, and it's a one-time occurrence, we understand and will not charge you. However, if it happens a second time we will charge for one week's worth of extended day programming.

## **Bus Services**

For \$150/session you can choose to drop off and pick up at The Wheeler School in Providence, RI. Bus service is strictly round trip. Routes are not interchangeable.

## **Providence Bus**

***\*Please note that due to construction at the Providence campus, drop-off and pick-up locations may change during the summer; this information will be communicated beforehand.***

Providence Wheeler Campus Address:  
216 Hope Street (Meeting Street Side)  
Providence, RI

*Time:*

- Drop off begins at 8:10am, the bus will be leaving promptly at 8:30am
- Pick-up - the bus will leave the Seekonk Campus at 4:00pm, arriving at the Providence Campus around 4:15pm. Please pick up by 4:45pm.

Wheeler Summer Camp operates a number of buses to and from several communities on designated routes, which are designed to be as direct as possible. An additional cost for using bus transportation will be added to your account.

Wheeler Summer Camps may not be able to arrange transportation to and from the summer camps for every child. Bus stops for Summer Camp may differ from traditional locations used by The Wheeler School.

Children are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and may be denied the transportation privilege if their manners, language, or behavior are not acceptable. For safety, no food or drink is permitted to be opened or consumed on the buses. Gum is not permitted on buses or at camp.

Selecting a transportation option – indicating bus, car, or PM care is required.

To tell us how your child will get to and from camp, please go to the Wheeler Summer Camp website and log in to your CampInTouch account. Click on the yellow pencil symbol, select the Day Travel Form, and choose car pickup/drop-off, PM Care, or the bus your child will use most often.

**Bus transportation guidelines**

No child under the age of 12 will be permitted to walk home alone from the Providence Campus. Please arrange to have an authorized grown-up meet your camper at the bus stop every day. Parents who would like their 12 year-old or older child to walk home from the bus should email the Camp Office giving their child permission to walk home.

Parents should anticipate variances in bus arrival depending upon weather and traffic conditions.

*Location:* Morning drop-off and Afternoon Pick-up will occur at the gazebo at the Wheeler School's Providence Campus. This is located on the Meeting Street side of the school by the gated entrance/gazebo.

*Supervision:* There will be counselors riding the bus each day. Our counselors can be identified by gold staff shirts. Please check in with them while on site.

*Communication:* If there are any last-minute concerns, please call the Camp Office (508) 336-8377 and your question(s) will be directed to the appropriate people.

## **Extended Day**

**PM Care:** Our extended-day program, PM Care, **will run until 5:30pm this summer.** PM Care for this summer will be \$200/session.

## **Clothing and Personal Belongings**

**Please note that EVERYTHING your child brings to Camp should be labeled with their name.** This includes backpacks, towels, water bottles, lunch boxes, clothing (even socks!), face masks, and swimsuits. We encourage you to keep special and more expensive personal items at home, even if they are your campers' favorite. Wheeler Summer Camp staff work hard to help campers stay organized and take responsibility for their belongings, but things can get lost. If something goes missing, please notify the Camp Office as soon as possible. Wheeler Summer Camp assumes no

responsibility for lost or damaged items. Please note: pets, animals, and weapons of any kind are not permitted. Sports equipment will be provided, but we understand that campers attending speciality camps may upon request and approval bring their own sports equipment.

### **What to wear: [please label everything]**

Comfortable, loose-fitting clothing, socks, and close-toed shoes. We encourage our younger campers to wear their bathing suit underneath their clothes when they arrive at camp.

### **What to bring: [please label everything]**

- Sunscreen
- Hand Sanitizer
- Hat
- Towel
- Lunch/snacks
- Sweatshirt or Jacket
- Change of Clothes
- Plastic bag (for wet clothing)
- A backpack (for all this stuff)
- Bathing Suit
- Rain Gear (if necessary)
- Refillable water bottle

### **Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle: Water Bottles!**

Please send your child with a full bottle of water every morning. Campers will refill the water bottle throughout the day. In keeping with Wheeler School's green initiatives, we are attempting to cut down on waste. With each camper using a refillable water bottle, rather than several paper cups a day, we will greatly reduce the amount of trash we create.

### **What not to bring:**

- Sandals or Open Toed Shoes
- Electronics of any kind (mp3, iPad, leapfrog, Nintendo)
- Cell phones (we are an unplugged camp)
- Umbrellas
- Money or valuables
- Digital Cameras
- Sports equipment
- Toys/Trading
- Cards/Pokemon/Cards included/etc.
- Drugs or alcohol
- Knives or weapons of any kind
- Pets or other animals
- Explicit T-shirts or other apparel deemed offensive, discriminatory or suggestive

### **Phone and Smartwatch Policy**

All cell phones and smartwatches are to stay home and not come to camp. If your camper or yourself need to communicate with one another during the camp day, it should be done through the camp office.

### **Lost & Found**

Every group will make a sweep of their area at the end of each day. Anything left unclaimed will be taken to the Camp Office. Lost & Found items will be communicated throughout the summer. We will work hard with our staff to be as proactive with this as possible. Please label everything. Wheeler Summer Camp will periodically donate unclaimed items to charity. Labeled items are the easiest to find. Wheeler Summer Camp does not assume responsibility for the loss of any personal items.

### **Lunch & Snack**

*Lunch is included in the registration fee; however, families can choose to provide their own lunch and snacks daily but a discount will not be given.* Daily lunch options are available through CulinArt catering. These are kid-friendly lunches, which will include a

main course, drink and treat. A weekly lunch menu will be posted at the beginning of each week in the camp office, outside the Health office and online.

*Snack:* A morning snack is provided, we will be sensitive to allergies, but please inform us of any special dietary needs that we may need to take into account while your camper is here. *Remember these are long, activity-filled days, food is fuel for our campers!*

Snack Bar: A snack bar will be opened once a week for campers to purchase a snack or drink. All items will be additional purchases. These items will be \$3 and under. Only cash will be accepted. An email will be sent to families on the specific dates that the snack bar will be open.

## **Principles of Conduct**

At Wheeler Summer Camp, we take a strengths-based approach to discipline and behavior management. This begins with our dedicated staff who model positivity, creative problem solving and conflict resolution with each camper and, in group settings.

Our staff is carefully selected to define and uphold the “Wheeler Way.” The staff’s job is to help families outside of Wheeler get a better idea of what Wheeler’s philosophy of respect and joyful learning is all about. To do that, we strive to have a balance of Wheeler faculty and teaching professionals who look to inspire and be inspired by each other and by the campers.

## **What is the “Wheeler Way?”**



It's about being a true leader!

1. **Empathy**- Seeing the world through the eyes of your campers. Noticing when a camper helps another camper and pointing it out to the rest of the group. Honoring a camper's feelings on both ends of a conflict. Infusing activities that promote an understanding of where a camper fits in the world and allowing them to be an active participant in their camp community.
2. **Communication**- Open communication between individuals builds and strengthens community.
3. **Inspiration**- We are a community of learners who inspire each other by sharing ideas and learning alongside one another!
4. **Respect**- Knowing we all have our personalities, yet having good judgment about when to step in and help out or offer a different perspective.
5. **Joy**- Our mantra, "Nothing without joy" –Loris Malaguzzi. Every activity and interaction is joyful. After all, we get to spend our beautiful summer days with the most positive, inspiring people of all....kids!

With these principles in mind, we do our best to engage campers in a fun & positive camp experience.

Wheeler Summer Camp does not tolerate discrimination, bullying, and unsafe or unhealthy behavior.

In rare instances, we encounter situations that require a more collaborative effort between Wheeler Summer and home. When this happens, the Division Leader and/or Camp Director works with families and campers to foster open communication and address whatever the issue may be.

## **Discipline**

Discipline is based on the child's individual needs and development. All staff are here to support the individual child and at the same time protect the group as a whole.

- 1) All rules and expectations of behavior should be clear to all campers at the beginning of the week. Rules will reflect the developmental needs of each child.
- 2) All activities offered, including workshop offerings, electives, and activities run by counselors, support the development of each camper's social-emotional, communication and regulation abilities.
- 3) The campers' physical well-being always comes first. Counselors will step in promptly when and if physical aggression is observed. Counselors will offer positive alternatives and talk with both parties to figure out a comfortable solution.
- 4) Counselors will never control another camper physically unless it is absolutely unsafe for the camper or campers involved.
- 5) Discipline must be consistent across all groups at Camp, therefore counselors must work to communicate closely with all other staff that needs to know about a camper's behavioral plan.
- 6) It needs to be made clear that it is the *behavior* at play and that it is in no way a reflection of the qualities of the individual child.
- 7) All counselors will continuously support all campers in a positive camp atmosphere. Wheeler Summer Camp is a **safe place** for all campers to express themselves as individuals, and campers feel safe with the kind words they choose and body language they use.
- 8) Division Leaders will work closely with counselors to make a plan of support for a child who may be showing challenging behavior. Counselors will observe and talk with the Camp Coach about an appropriate plan that will help support the child to succeed.
- 9) Parents will always be notified, and we will look to work with parents to make this a successful camp experience. Communication with parents will be through the Division Leaders.
- 10) All behavioral plans are based on the child's personal needs and abilities. We provide them appropriate expectations, and always highlight their strengths.

- 11) Time outs are not used. Counselors say “you look like you need a break” and find a quiet supervised spot where the child can sit quietly and reflect. Once the child seems ready, counselors will talk it through with them.
- 12) We have noticed in the past, families who share strategies that aid in positive experiences during a child’s school year with Division Leaders, find success at Wheeler Summer Camp. We can adapt these strategies for the summer camp environment, and the child can utilize camp in the best ways possible.

**Note:** *If a child and parent are uncooperative in working to form a positive behavioral plan we reserve the right to dismiss the camper.*

## **General Health Care**

Wheeler Summer Camp has a Health & Wellness Manager on duty every day, who is a Registered Nurse. In addition, there will be a second or third Registered Nurse in attendance on most days. Wheeler Summer partners with a local pediatrician who oversees all policies and procedures. If your child is feeling ill or is injured at Camp, the Healthcare staff will assess the situation and decide on an appropriate course of action. Our Health team can be reached in the Health Services office at (508) 336-8377.

## **Health History and Physical Forms**

Wheeler Summer Camp complies with regulations defined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Wheeler Summer has electronic software that will allow parents to submit all required medical documentation for their campers. All campers are required to have health insurance coverage while they are at camp. As such, all medical information must be submitted before your child arrives at Camp. This includes a signed physical examination (conducted within the last 18 months) form from your child’s physician, and a complete immunization record.

In some cases, regulations may be different from neighboring states. We will work with you to understand and comply with the Massachusetts DPH regulations. If your child is not in compliance with Massachusetts DPH regulations, they will not be able to participate in our summer programs. Please notify us of any changes in Emergency Contact Information throughout the summer.

## **Health and Wellness**

Before camp starts, if you have any concerns regarding your camper's physical or mental health and overall well-being, please communicate these to the Health & Wellness Manager who can be reached at [beafurtado@wheelerschool.org](mailto:beafurtado@wheelerschool.org). Once Camp has started, if you have any concerns about your child's health and wellness please contact our camp office at 508-336-8377 and speak with either the Health & Wellness Manager, the Camp Director or Division Leader of your child's camp. Open communication is a key component to you and your child having a successful summer camp experience, and we look forward to hearing from you.

## **Prescribed Medications**

Prescription medications may be administered to campers during camp hours. The following documentation and procedures must be followed:

- Medications must arrive with an official doctor's order.
- The medication must be FDA-approved.
- The medication must arrive in the original pharmaceutical bottle with the correct labeling. (If requested, a pharmacy will label two bottles, one for the camp and one for home.)
- No camper is allowed to carry their own medication; all medication will be kept and administered in the Health Center. (Note some exceptions below.)

- Campers entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade who use inhalers for asthma may carry their inhalers with them. They must have a physician's order on file in the Health Center, and may use the inhaler only in the Health Center during the camp day.
- When campers are involved in off-camp trips, a medical bag including prescribed medications will also travel with the group. Trained counselors will be allowed to administer medications if needed.
- OTC medications can be administered while at camp if prior authorization is given by the camper's family.

## Allergies

Please notify us if your child has any environmental, food, animal, or other allergies that may affect their health while at Camp. Please include the allergen, allergic response, and treatment. We will make all reasonable accommodations for your child. We do provide snacks and lunch at Wheeler Summer Camp. If your child has food restrictions, you must indicate so on their registration form. In addition, please submit an allergy action plan via the CampInTouch Portal. **It is important to note that we are a nut-free camp.**

**Illness: Health and wellness are the foundation of having a positive camp experience.**

***\*Please also refer to the Operations Safety Plan inserted below for information specific to Summer 2024.***

Wheeler Summer Camp complies with state guidelines regarding excluding kids from Camp due to illness; however, we depend on collaboration with parents to promote the health of campers and staff. We encourage all campers and staff to take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including staying home when sick or with fever. If your child has a fever or a stomach bug, it's easy to know that

they should be home. However, there may be times that your child becomes ill at Camp and the Health Team may assess your child's symptoms and decide they are too ill to be at camp. If this happens a member of the Health Team will contact you and we ask that you respond promptly.

Please keep your child home if they experience any of the following symptoms within 24 hours of beginning a camp day:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher (Campers must be fever-free and off fever-reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to Camp).
- Recurrent diarrhea, vomiting, or significant nausea.
- Flu-like symptoms.
- Sore throat, particularly with swollen glands.
- Cold symptoms such as repeated coughing or sneezing are likely to spread infection.
- Significant headache or stomach ache.
- Obvious infections such as chickenpox (all lesions should be crusted over before returning to camp).
- Contagious skin disease such as impetigo.
- Bacterial Conjunctivitis (must be on antibiotics; see below)\*
- COVID-19\*
- Any illness where a child is unable to participate fully in camp activities.

\* Children placed on antibiotics should be on them for 24 hours before returning to Camp.

\* If your camper tests positive for COVID-19 and is cleared to return to camp, please pack additional masks to be used while your camper is in indoor spaces.

Wheeler Summer is required to report any cases of communicable disease and food poisoning incidents to the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Local Board of Health.

Please see additional information regarding meningococcal disease and immunization. [Click Here.](#)

### Injury

- A member of the Health Team is available to treat the everyday bumps and scrapes that may happen at Camp. If the injury appears significant or requires medical attention, every effort will be made to contact you so that arrangements may be made for your child.
- If your child is injured during the week, a physician's note regarding the child's ability to participate in activities will be required prior to their return.

### Keys to Success at Camp:

#### Hydration

It is important to keep hydrated when outdoors in the summer. Please send a labeled water bottle full of cold water with your child each day. Campers will refill their water bottles as often as needed.

#### Sun Protection

Please apply sunscreen to your child at home **before** arriving at camp. We will also provide sunscreen for your child. If there is a specific suntan lotion you wish for us to use on your child, please send it labeled in a plastic bag and hand it to any Camp Counselor or Division Leader available. We will remind campers to reapply sunblock throughout the day, especially after they swim. We will assist younger campers.

Also, we recommend that campers wear hats and cool comfortable clothing. On extremely hot days, we try to stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day.

Should your child feel overwhelmed by the heat, they will see a member of the Health Team, who may contact you to dismiss your child if need be.

### **Insect Repellent**

Please apply insect repellent to your child at home **before** arriving at Camp. We will provide insect repellent when campers go on hikes or when it is deemed necessary. If there is a specific insect repellent you wish for us to use on your child, please send it labeled in a plastic bag. We will remind campers to re-apply repellent after they swim and before going into any wooded areas. We will assist younger campers.

### **Tick Check!**

After participating in any activities in wooded or grassy areas, staff will guide campers in a tick check. Please be aware that campers spend their entire day outside and it is necessary to also do a nightly tick check.

The following is a good guideline for checking your child's body for ticks:

- Under the arms
- In and around the ears
- Inside belly button
- Back of the knees
- In and around the hair
- Between the legs
- Around the waist

For more information on tick bite prevention, you can access the following site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/StopTicks/>



