

21st Century Kids -- Summer Adventure at Chicago Academy

3400 N Austin Ave, Chicago, IL 60634

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.

Please use the school's Main Entrance (Door 8 - see image below).



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 elementary school's Main Entrance (Door 8) will be our only access point; please do not use any other entrance. Convenient dropoff and pickup parking is accessible off Meade Avenue and Roscoe Street. Campers may be dropped off and picked up by parents and/or authorized adults at any time between 8:00am - 6:00pm, and for campers with offsite appointments, parents and/or authorized adults may pick up and drop off campers as needed throughout the day. Camp ends promptly at 6:00pm daily, 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, please 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.

Another option is to text or leave a voicemail at our TCA AfterCare Plus phone number:
773-231-9771

While we don't answer calls at this number, texts and voicemail are sent to onsite staff.

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 likely use TCA's multipurpose room for eating, tentatively at the following times:

Breakfast -- 9:00 to 9:45am
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 the time designated for lunch), we offer a variety of free snack items for our campers to choose from. Please note that items are subject to availability. **Campers may choose 1 item each from Categories A, B, and C, and our Category D (fruit) currently has no limit:**

Category A

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

Category B

Bag of Doritos
Bag of Cheetos
Bag of Funyuns
Bag of Lays Chips
Bag of Rold Gold Pretzels
Package of Oreo cookies
Package of Welch's Fruit Snacks

Category C

Capri Sun Roarin' Waters Flavored Water:
Fruit Punch, Strawberry Kiwi, Tropical Fruit, or Tropical Tide

Category D

Red, 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.

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 typically dedicate one of our indoor classrooms, usually containing a private restroom, as a quiet 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:

In the school's auditorium, 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 summer 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 summer 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 and up 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 and up 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 in some children we still see gaps in social skills. 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 if they would like, relax in our 'Free to Be Me' social space as needed.

Water Day on Fridays and Mini Water Day on Wednesdays:

Weather permitting, Fridays are Water Days! We have large shallow pools and inflatable water parks to make sure that all our campers have the chance to cool down and have a great time every Friday afternoon. Water Day scheduling keeps groups reasonably sized and allows us to keep grade levels together.

Also, weather permitting, Wednesdays are Mini Water Days! We bring out the pools and provide some structured activity during pool time, allowing kids to cool down and have a great time with their peers every Wednesday afternoon. Mini Water Day scheduling also keeps groups reasonably sized and grade levels together.

On Water Days, kids should come to camp wearing a swimsuit under their clothes and bring extra clothing if feasible, but if inconvenient we can make sure they have privacy to change inside the school. The same clothing suggestions apply to Mini Water Days (for campers who would like to participate). A beach towel is always advisable when there's water, and water bottles and sunscreen are highly recommended for every day at camp!

Chef's Kitchen for Kids:

On Tuesday and Thursday 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 mix instant pudding (vanilla, chocolate, and banana cream flavors as available), in addition to making our very popular smoothies (a variety of fruit combinations available).

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.

Copyright © 2024 21st Century Kids LLC
