



WELCOME PACKET

SUMMER

CAMP

2026



WELCOME

Summer Camp provides a fun, safe, and relaxed environment for school-age children. We integrate Pennsylvania's Learning Standards into our lesson plans and daily routines. Children will continue to progress socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively, as they mature. A continuous cycle of assessment is used as well as an electronic portfolio to track individual children's development, success, and challenges.

OUR MISSION

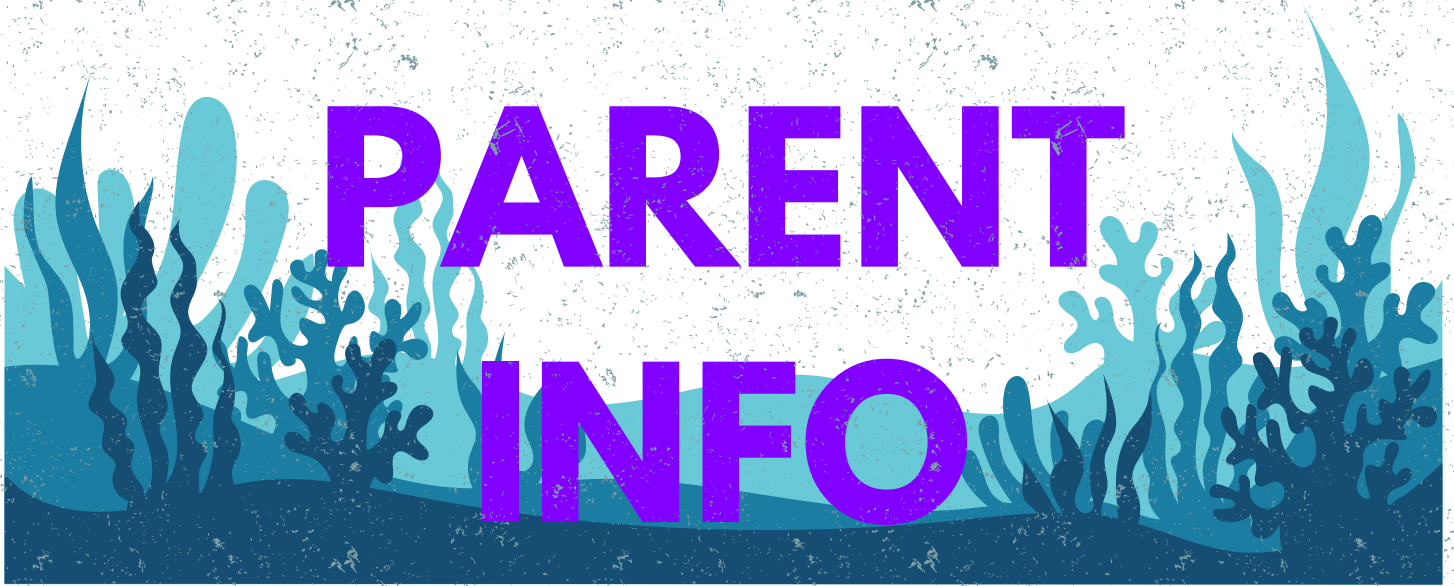
The St. James Early Learning Center, is a ministry of the congregation, is committed to providing quality and affordable childcare in a Christian environment. The purpose of the Center is to provide a caring, Christian environment for children of parents who are employed or enrolled in a full-time education program, and to serve the childcare fellowship. Christian education will be an integral part of the daily program.

The St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center is a ministry of outreach to the community and a mission of service and stewardship to the St. James Lutheran Church.

Therefore:

- St. James Lutheran Church seeks at least a 40% enrollment of the childcare center to be children who need financial aid to attend.
- St. James Lutheran Church is responsible for establishing a scholarship fund to supplement other income sources to make this goal viable. scholarship fund may be financed by various sources including fundraisers, endowments, grants, operating budgets, etc.
- St. James Lutheran Church gifts the childcare center with use of the building in ministry outreach.
- St. James Lutheran Church seeks to provide quality childcare in context of Christian values and education.
- St. James Lutheran Church considers the childcare center as a witness to the faith in Jesus Christ. This witness has direct effect on employment practices, enrollment procedures, inclusive population, teachings, and business practices.
- Expectations of good business practices further include fiscal accountability, optimum use of available space and resources and financial self-sufficiency.
- St. James Lutheran Church seeks to provide affordable childcare to ALL

PARENT INFO

A decorative header featuring the words 'PARENT INFO' in large, bold, purple letters. The background is a stylized underwater scene with various shades of blue and green, depicting coral reefs and seaweed.

Parent Information Board: Located on the wall by the entrance of the classroom. Here you will find our lesson plans, daily schedule, summer calendar, monthly menu, and other important parent information.

Sign-In/Out Sheet: **PLEASE sign in & out daily.** The sign-in & out sheet will travel with us to each location. This helps us know who is and isn't in the program. If the clipboard is not here, then we are not at the daycare, and you will have to sign them in with the teacher at our posted location.

Note Sheet: A note sheet is available for parent-to-teacher communication. This is located beside the sign-in/out sheet on a clipboard. Please feel free to let us know about upcoming absences, early pick-ups, late arrivals, and changes in the pick-up person (if they are not on the emergency contact form, please make sure we are aware of their first and last name and their address so we can check their ID).

HiMama/LILLIO- this is our direct line of communication. We will share daily events, reminders, photos, activities, and schedule changes, if they apply, through our app. You can also message the classroom directly if you have a question.

Outside Food & Drinks- NO food from home is allowed to be brought in. Unless sharing as a snack for a child's birthday! Or a packed lunch for a field trip

Toys & Gadgets- Please leave all toys at home! We have lots to choose from in our building and will be rotating materials and games often.

Contact Information: Email us at: kc@stjamestgettysburg.org,
Send us a HiMama Message, or
call us at (717)334-7171 (ask to speak to Kids Club)





A water bottle- IS A MUST- They must be filled daily with WATER ONLY. Water bottles should be taken home daily and returned. They must be taken home at the end of each week for cleaning and returned. Please do not bring any substitutes, such as Prime, Gatorade, or juice, ect., in your child's water bottle. Unflavored Water only!



Shoes- We do a lot of walking in summer camp. Please wear sneakers or closed-toe shoes. NO FLIP FLOPS or open-toed shoes/ sandals. Crocs are ok. You may bring Crocs or an extra pair of shoes for your child's cubby.

Change of clothes- labeled with the child's initials (ie, shirt, shorts/pants, underwear, socks, and a pair of shoes). Accidents and unforeseen messes happen (such as artistic spills, play, spills, or illness). Extra clothes should be kept in a bag in your child's cubby.



Water Day & clothing- water play will be held every Wednesday! Labeled with the child's name/initials (ie.- appropriate bathing suits for girls & boys to run and play in). Bathing suits and towels need to be taken home and washed after each water-play activity, and returned on the next water-play days. Your child will need Crocs or water shoes for the grass, no bare feet. Please bring a change of clothing and bags to put their wet water play clothing in. We don't have the supplies.



Sunscreen- Please apply it before coming to childcare. If you would like us to reapply sunscreen to your child throughout the day, you will need to provide a doctor's note and complete a medication log.



Lincoln Playground- We will also be walking to Lincoln Playground daily. Please make sure to wear shoes that will be comfortable for walking, climbing and



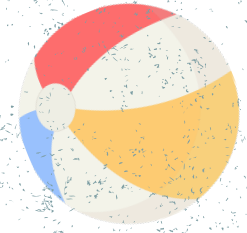
running.

Each child MUST use the bathroom and wash their hands before coming to the classroom.



THINGS NEEDED

GET EXCITED



A message from our teachers:

This year, we will split the students between 2 classrooms. Both rooms will follow the same schedule for field trips, water days, lesson plan themes, and events.

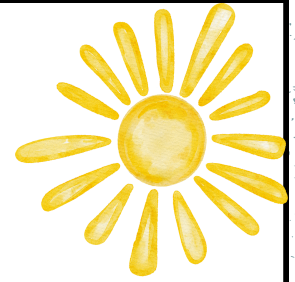
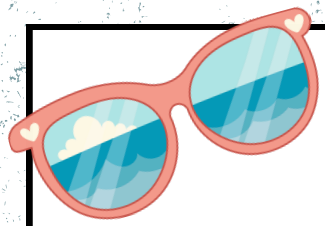
We encourage kindness, respect, and a classroom where everyone feels accepted! Please make sure your children understand that not everyone is the same and it's okay to be different. 😊

One of our goals this year is to bring more Science/STEM into the rooms. We will be exploring slime, oobleck, kinetic sand, cloud dough, giant bubbles, and MORE! With that being said, make sure your child is wearing clothes that are okay to get a little messy. We want to encourage exploration without ruining any new clothes!

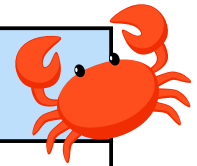
Make sure you have the Lillio (HiMama) App to stay up to date with your children's daily events!

Kids Club Teachers 😊

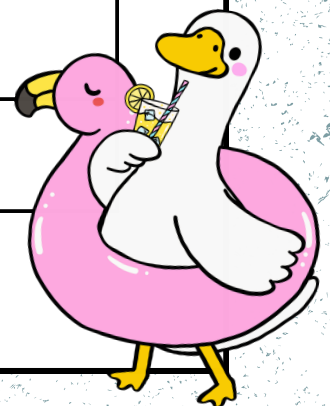
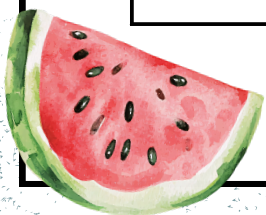




SUMMER schedule



Time	
6:30-8:30	Arrival & Free Choice
7:00-8:00	Breakfast
8:30-9:00	Morning Meeting /Goals
9:15-10:30	Walk / Lincoln Playground
10:45-11:15	Centers & Games
11:15-12:00	Lunch
12:00-1:00	Quite Time/ DEAR
1:00-3:00	Teacher Lead Activities & Groups
3:00-3:30	Snack
3:30-5:30	Free Choice & Dismissal



THE

GOAL

Get you and your student excited and PREPARED!





This will be an amazingly fun-filled summer, HOWEVER, there will be expectations to be met. We are ready to build, create, and explore, but those amazing projects and field trips are dependent on the behavior and expectations of each student and his or her parent.

Meaning: you get what you give.

We want to give you the best experience and in return we expect the same.

*Together,
We make a
Difference*



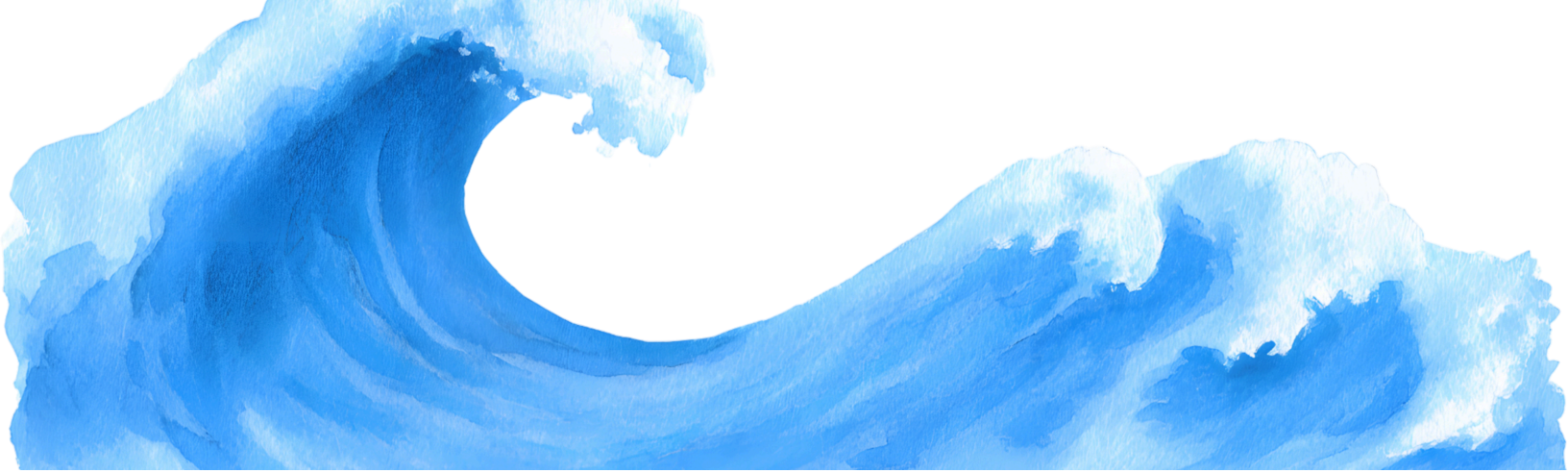
-  HAVE FUN
-  BEGIN TO GRASP THE UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OF THE 10 VIRTUES
-  LEARN MANY NEW SKILLS: CONSTRUCTION, ART, TEAMWORK, ETC.
-  BEGIN TO GRASP THE CONCEPT THAT LEVELING UP IN GAMES AND LIFE IS HOW WE CAN REACH ANY GOAL WE SET!



*Together
We Can!*

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MEET YOUR TEAM



MS. ASHTON

Ms. Ashton started at St James in 2026. She has worked in early childhood care since 2016 and has experience working with many age groups, including 8 years in preschool. Ms. Ashton earned her Preschool CDA in 2019.

She and her husband have 2 children. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, spending time with her family, and riding motorcycles.

MS. CASSIE

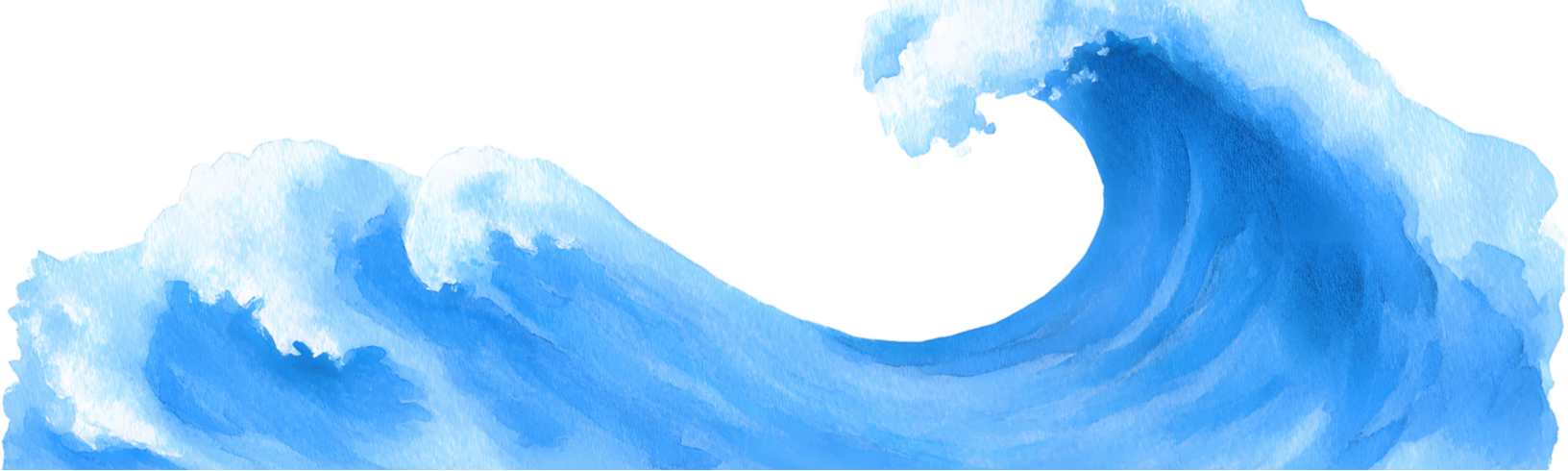
Ms. Cassie started with us in 2025. Ms. Cassie is a junior at Wilson College and is majoring in Exercise Science. She has experience working with children through years of babysitting and as a teacher's assistant.

Ms. Cassie is from Bridgeville, Delaware, and grew up on her family's farm. She loves being outdoors and being active. She enjoys playing field hockey, golf, hiking, and fishing. One of her favorite things is cooking and making new recipes.



MS. COURTNEY

Ms. Courtney started at St. James in the spring of 2026. She has worked in early childhood for many years. She is currently working on her teaching degree. She and her husband are expecting their first child in October 2026. Ms. Courtney comes from a large family and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephews. She enjoys hiking with her dogs.



MEET YOUR TEAM



MS. MYA

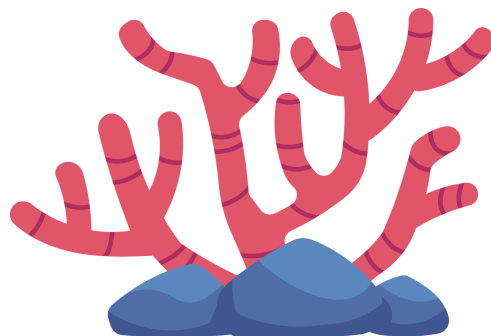
Started with us in the summer of 2025. She is a graduate of Penn State University. I majored in Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

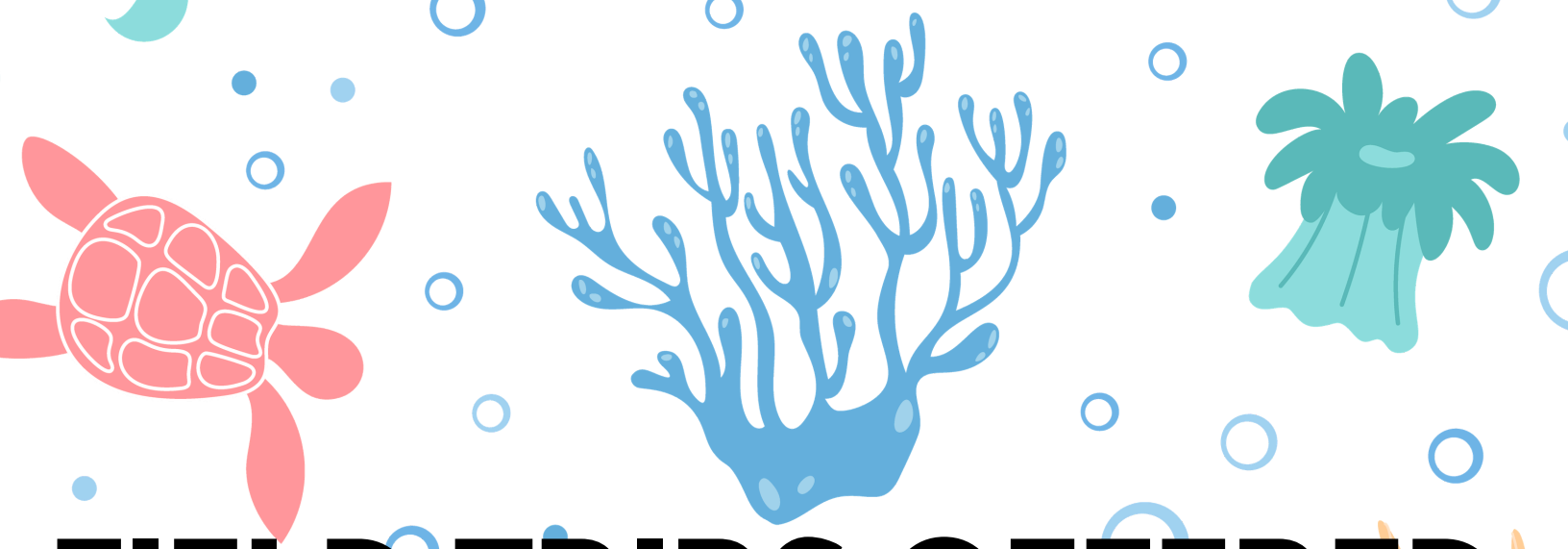
In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends and family, going on adventures, playing games, and being creative. My favorite pastime is traveling, during which I have visited spectacular forests in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Hawaii. I have been to several beaches and love to document my adventures with my camera.

MS. LUPTIA

Ms. Guadalupe, who goes by Lupita, has been with us for many years. She graduated from Gettysburg Area High School in 2024. Lupita completed the Adams County Technical Institute (ACTI) program, where she was a student in the Early Learning Program. Lupita is currently a student at Shippensburg University, pursuing a degree in Social Work.

Lupita lives at home with her mom, dad, and brother. She enjoys reading, dancing, and playing track and field. She has volunteered at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for 10 years with VBS, Religious Ed, serving at the altar, and youth group.





FIELD TRIPS OFFERED



CALEDONIA PARK

This State park is just a short bus ride away. We will take advantage of the shaded scenery to build rock towers by the streams. We will work in collaboration with the 4H and enjoy stream study and explorations.



TBD

We are looking schedule one more field trip and have not decided on one location over the other. This field trip will be told to parents as soon as we have it narrowed down.



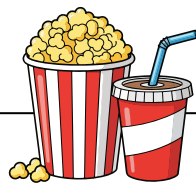
EXTRA WALKING DISTANCE DAYS

Rita's, Mr. G's, trips to the Battlefield, and Lincoln Elementary playground: These are all walking distance trips we can take to help get us outside and practicing our virtues we have learned.



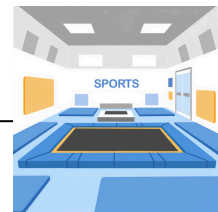
CATOCTIN ZOO

Located in Thurmont, MD. This will be an exciting learning experience to see different reptiles and animals! We will learn about how they live in the wild and their story and get the chance to pet some fun animals!



SUMMER MOVIES

Summer movies are available throughout the summer at the Gate Way Theater. This is a time to relax and enjoy some good snacks. We will be choosing 3 movies to watch!



SKYZONE

Located in Mechanicsburg, PA. Everyone will get to bounce out their energy and learn some new tricks at this trampoline park! Get ready for this exciting field trip to finish out our fun summer!

PARENT PERMISSION

Throughout the summer, we will be going on 4 field trips that will require us to take the bus. We will have other field trips in town where we are able to walk or take public transportation. There will be times when your child will be required to pack a lunch. We encourage you to make healthy choices as the meals should try to meet our food program guidelines, and after treats are okay, but they should not consume their entire meal. As a reminder, we are a nut-free program. Please do not pack peanut or peanut butter products in your child's lunches due to peanut allergies.

Lunches should be completely disposable and labeled with your child's name. Please do not pack any energy drinks, soda, or prime as a beverage for lunches; water, juice, and juice pouch alternatives, ect. are fine. We will have a cooler to transport the lunch boxes. Additional water bottles can be brought along for use throughout the field trip.

INITIAL HERE



CALEDONIA PARK

INITIAL HERE



SKY ZONE

INITIAL HERE



CATOCTIN ZOO

INITIAL HERE



TBD- trip

INITIAL HERE



SUMMER MOVIE

INITIAL HERE



EXTRA WALKING DISTANCE DAYS

Please initial and sign to approve all the above field trip options. The previous page lists the details of each field, if you have any questions regarding the trips please request further information prior to signing. **THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE.**



DUE DATE: MAY 30, 2026

SIGNATURE



BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

2026
SUMMER
CAMP



DATE:

CAMPER NAME (first & last):

Please review the below contract carefully and thoroughly as it contains important details and CHANGES from previous summer programs. This contract is in **ADDITION TO** the center wide behavioral policy already in place and does **NOT** replace it.

Please have parental initial at each statement as well as a parent **AND** student signature at the bottom.

INITIAL HERE

All campers will show respect towards staff, peers, school property, and themselves at **ALL TIMES: at the center, on walks, during field trips, etc.**

RESPECT- treating others with kindness and consideration. Expressing needs and wants in a calm way, responding to requests in a timely manner, and listening to others.)

INITIAL HERE

All campers will make a strong effort to participate in camp programming, **AND** constructively work and interact with peers appropriately.

INITIAL HERE

All campers will demonstrate best behavior on any center outing of any kind while representing our center in the best ways possible.

INITIAL HERE

Campers deemed able to attend any out-of-center field trip must meet the following expectations:

NO incident reports of any kind 3 school days prior to the field trip date

NO more than 10 incident reports throughout the entire summer program

Behavioral contract & Permission page completed and submitted

If your child can not go on a field trip, you, as the parent, are responsible for providing care during the allotted field trip time frame.

PARENT SIGNATURE

STUDENT SIGNATURE



June 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

All About Me ---->

1 Summer Camp Begins!


2


3 Water Play

4

5

6


7
VBS Week


8


9

10


11



12


13

14
Animals ---->

15

16

Catoctin Zoo!




17
Water Play


18

19
Father's Day Social

20

21
Camping ---->

22


23

24
Water Play


25
4H Activity


26
4H Activity


27

28

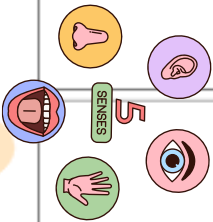
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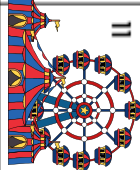



JULY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Under the Sea			Field Trip!	Start Bake Sale Prep!	 CLOSED	4th of July
5 Outer Space	6 Baking/Prep	7	8 Bake Sale Days!!	9	10	11
12 Insects	13 Caledonia Field Trip (4-H)	14	15 Water Play	16	17 	18
19 The Beach	20	21	22 Water Play	23	24	25 
26 Five Senses	27	28	29 Water Play	30 4H Activity	31	



August 26

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sports ----> 	3 4H Activity 	4 4H Activity 	5 Water Play 	6 SkyZone Field Trip 	7	8
9 Carnival/Spirit Week ----> 	10	11 	12 Water Play 	13	14 Last Day of Summer Camp 	15
16	17	18	19 Back to School!! 	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					