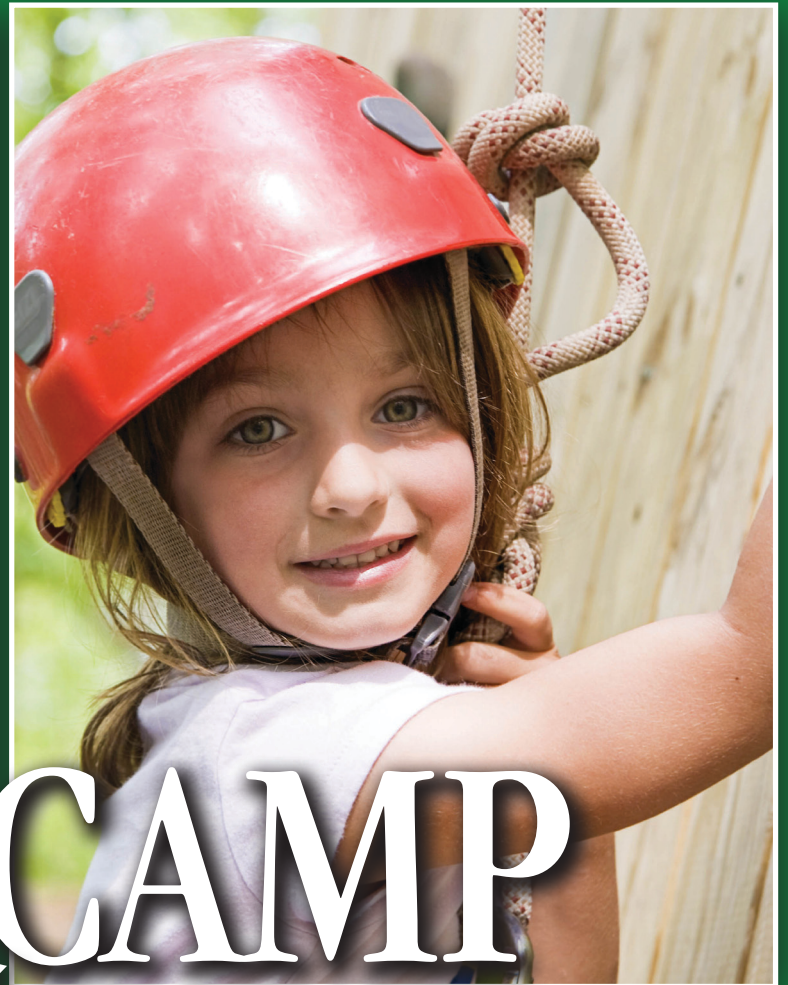


2018 MAIN LINE



SUMMER CAMP



guide



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March 11, 2018

SUMMER FUN

How to choose a summer camp

By Emily Armington

Summer is approaching, and for many parents, that means choosing a summer camp.

What are you supposed to look for? What do your kids want to do? What's most important and what can take a backseat?

If you're already stressed, don't worry!

Every year, more than 4,200 children attend summer camp at the YMCA of Greater Brandywine's eight Chester County branches, and we've learned some of the most essential questions to ask.

Which camp is right for your child?

Believe it or not, there are many types of summer camps available today — and I don't just mean day or overnight camp! There are adventure camps, performing arts camps, science camps and more.

Choice is a good thing — just make sure that the camp aligns with your child's interests. If your children are athletically inclined, computer coding camp might not be the best camp for them. If they enjoy arts and crafts, see what's available to stimulate their creativity. Talk with your children and make sure they're where they want to be. Remember, summer should be fun!

At the eight branches of the YMCA of Greater Bran-

dywine, which are the Brandywine YMCA, the Jennersville YMCA, the Kennett Area YMCA, the Lionville Community YMCA, the Octorara YMCA Program Center, the Oscar Lasko YMCA, the Upper Main Line YMCA and the West Chester Area YMCA, traditional day camps with themes, as well as specialty camps in creative arts, sports, aquatics, gymnastics, theater, dance, cooking, music, tennis, STEM and environmental and equestrian, are offered.

Who will be caring for your child?

Camp counselors are at the heart of your child's camp experience — they can make or break it.

One parent whose daughter attended camp at the Jennersville YMCA last year shared, "My 7-year-old daughter was nervous about going and had a tough first week. One of the camp counselors helped her through her low moments. By the end of the summer, she had gained independence and confidence from the experience. And best of all — she wants to go back!"

A reputable camp will share its hiring and training practices. Background checks and child abuse clearances are completed on all camp counselors (as well as all employees) hired by the YMCA. Our counselors are also certified in CPR and first aid and complete thorough training.

What's included in the cost? Is financial assistance offered?

For most, cost is a factor when selecting a camp. Don't assume that the most expensive camps are better. Take the time to evaluate what each offers.

For example, at the YMCA of Greater Brandywine, swimming is included with many camps. Before and after care is available at no additional cost, and a sibling discount is offered. Finally, as a nonprofit organization, the YMCA offers financial assistance to those unable to pay the standard fees.

Summer camp at the branches of the YMCA of Greater Brandywine begins

on June 11 and ends on Aug. 24. At our Upper Main Line YMCA branch, camp begins earlier on May 29 and runs through Aug. 31.

We'd love to see you and your children at camp this summer at the YMCA! Visit www.ymcagbw.org/camp to learn more about our offerings.

Emily Armington is the associate executive director at the Kennett Area YMCA and leads the team of camp directors for the YMCA of Greater Brandywine's eight branches. She can be reached at earmington@ymcagbw.org.



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UPPER MAIN LINE YMCA 610-647-9622 a branch of the YMCA of Greater Brandywine

The YMCA is a cause-driven charitable organization that provides financial assistance for programs. Ask us for details.

RIVERBEND

Celebrate summer at its best through outdoor exploration, adventure

Imagine your child spending summer days stomping in the stream, lying in the soft grass and discovering his or her inner talents all while making lifetime friends and memories.

Riverbend Environmental Education Center has provided those nature-based experiences at their Gladwyne preserve for over 35 years.

There are so many amazing things that happen when a child spends time in nature.

Studies show that kids:

- think more creatively and critically.
- are more social and are less likely to bully or experience bullying.
- feel less stressed, allowing their emotional development to flourish.
- increase their fitness levels.
- develop an intangible love for the natural world.

Since 1981, when Riverbend Summer Exploration Camp was launched at Camp Green Heron, campers have learned to appreciate and protect the



earth on our 30-acre nature preserve. Professional environmental educators lead campers ages 3 to 13 in small groups with a low camper-to-educator ratio to ensure developmentally-appropriate curriculum for all ages.

During the day, campers explore our varying ecosystems, make crafts, conduct science experiments and simply enjoy being a kid playing in the dirt. Activities are carefully designed to allow campers' creativity and curiosity to flourish in a setting that is purposefully unstructured.

Curiosity activates the learning, memory and reward centers of the brain. When these centers are activated while in nature, the brain is not only more receptive to learning about the task at hand but more receptive to learning in general. Riverbend educators use this opportunity to encourage campers to practice 21st century skills such as resiliency, self-reflection and grit. Most importantly, Riverbend

campers fall in love with nature and carry those memories through life.

Each week focuses on a different nature theme — from environmental stewardship during Nature's Superhero week, to oozing slime and chemical reactions during Messy Science week. Riverbend also offers Navigator programs for ages 10 to 13, including themes like Advanced Wilderness Exploration and Hi Tech Naturalist.

Riverbend is not only a place for learning and exploration, but a place where kids can be kids by making memories, laughing, dancing and having fun all summer long!

Riverbend also strives to make life easier for our busier parents with an extended summer (weekly sessions from June 11 to Aug. 31) and an extended-day option (dropoff as early as 8 a.m. and pickup as late as 6 p.m.).

To learn more about Riverbend's Summer Exploration camp, visit www.riverbendec.org.



Summer Exploration Camp June 11 to August 31



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Overnight options for older kids!

Hiking, campfires, water play, outdoor exploration and more.

www.riverbendec.org | Ages 3 to 13

camps@riverbendec.org 610-527-5234

WAYNE ART CENTER

Travel through art around the world in 60 days



Join the Wayne Art Center this summer for Travel Through Art; Around the World in 60 Days Art Camp 2018.

Grab your bags and passport as the Wayne Art Center guides you this summer on a creative journey, Travel through Art; Around the World in 60

Days!

Over 200 diverse arts classes will be offered throughout 12 weeks of Summer Art Camp that are geared to every age and level of artistic ability. Flexible schedules fea-

ture full- and half-day classes that accommodate busy families as well as early care, after care and lunch bunch in the beautiful Children's Garden. Our clean and well-equipped contemporary studios inspire campers with abundant natural light and views of Wayne Art Center's gardens that also serve as beautiful outdoor studio spaces.



Discover the intricate artwork and pyramids of Egypt, the colorful jewelry and patterned textiles of Kenya and the landscapes

and natural wonders of Cape Town. Explore British culture, the rich landscapes of Ireland and the Great Wall of China! From the tile making and weaving of Persia to the minimalist lifestyle and monochromatic colors of Scandinavia, this summer is sure to open your eyes, ears and hearts to the cultures and art from around the globe.

As Wayne Art Center Camp classes are small, each child will feel encouraged and challenged by an experienced faculty who will nurture your child through the joys of the creative process. As an added bonus, over 50 enthusiastic teen volunteers and interns are on hand to assist teachers in the studios.

Early childhood art pro-


grams are designed to stimulate the minds of budding artists and foster their love of art. Dynamic STEAM-inspired classes for children ages 6 to 12 focus on building skills in drawing, painting, cartooning, ceramics, cooking, jewelry, robotics, fashion design ... and more! Performing arts classes in drama and dance are designed to enhance reading skills, confidence and public speaking, while the Teen Studio provides diverse opportunities for teen artists ages 13 and older to improve core art skills that help expand their creative repertoire.

Wayne Art Center's Summer Art Camp, now in its 34th year, is not only a wonderful opportunity to learn about the history of art and artmaking but


offers a venue to develop new friendships and learn about the importance of building a strong community through the arts.

At the conclusion of each week, campers are invited to showcase their creative accomplishments for family, friends and fellow campers at our Friday Art Show. The popular Summer Visual and Performing Arts Entertainment Series will feature a diverse group of visiting artists who share their cultural experiences with our campers throughout the summer.

For more information on Wayne Art Center's 2018 Summer Art Camp, please visit our website at www.wayneart.org or call Tessa Downs, Summer Art Camp director, at 610-688-3553 ext. 208.




Main Line Music Academy



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WWW.MLMA.NET

610.642.2252

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wayne art center



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MERION MERCY

A bright spot in your summer

For more than 25 years, Merion Mercy's Summer Programs have offered a multitude of academic and athletic opportunities for students. In recent years, the offerings have expanded, and now MMA's Summer Programs provide more than 25 academic and enrichment opportunities and sports camps for girls and boys in grades six to 12.

Whether students wish to sharpen their writing skills, earn high school credits, prepare for the various high school and scholarship exams, try a new sport or learn a new skill, there's surely a summer activity at Merion Mercy that matches their interests.

"There really is something for everyone," said Director of Summer Programs Barbara Harrison. "We are proud to have strong instructors and to utilize our facilities to of-

fer students a productive and unique summer experience. This summer, we especially look forward to using our renovated spaces, which include a new gymnasium, art studios and gallery, and an innovation lab where four recently added 'STEAM in the Summer' courses will be held."

Close to 100 high school students take part in the Summer Programs, while elementary school students and incoming freshmen are also eager to explore MMA's six-acre campus. In addition to several co-ed options, many of the summer offerings are just for girls and allow prospective students the chance to get to know MMA's campus, meet faculty members and / or coaches and experience the school's programs first hand.

Most notably, the all-girls academic enrichment option

is a pre-eighth grade program called the Summer Academy. Summer Academy is a full-day, four-week program designed specifically for girls entering grade eight. The Summer Academy helps students begin the transition from an elementary school to a college preparatory high school program. Students take courses, such as pre-algebra, language arts, study skills and public speaking. There is also a fitness class built in that includes options such as volleyball, dance and yoga.

As one happy Summer Academy parent noted, "My daughter loved the program, learned a lot and made great new friends. For our family, MMA's Summer Academy was a perfect mix of learning and fun."

"Our Summer Academy is a great way for young girls



to spend their summer days. They receive unparalleled preparation for eighth and ninth grades and beyond, prepare for the entrance exams for high school and learn various skills, such as time management and effective study skills. Plus there is a healthy living component, where students utilize MMA's new gymnasium and other fitness ame-

ilities," said Harrison.

Whether families are looking for an all-day camp experience or would like the freedom to select half-day programs that focus on a particular area of interest, Merion Mercy has something for everyone!

Visit www.merion-mercy.com/summerprograms for more information.

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CAMP TOCKWOGH

Get ready for your best summer ever

In today's age, we expect more and more out of the youth of America. From summer school programming, intense athletic requirements, family vacation time and other enrichment opportunities, the average summer schedule is fuller than ever before.

What ever happened to playing outside and getting dirt under the fingernails? For many children today, this unfortunately seems like a rare commodity. YMCA Camp Tockwogh in Maryland is actively working to change your child's life, by providing the opportunity to get outside and have fun!

As an overnight camp located on the Chesapeake Bay, YMCA Camp Tockwogh incorporates outdoor fun and adven-

ture into an experience that allows children to enhance values, build character, develop as leaders and learn lifelong skills.

You may ask yourself, "Why summer camp? What can it do for my child?" We at YMCA Camp Tockwogh realize your child's school year is full of high-stress situations, sporting events, playdates and rehearsals. Overnight camp offers a time and location for our campers to relax, enjoy activities, make friends and learn about themselves in a safe environment.

YMCA Camp Tockwogh, a branch of the YMCA of Delaware, is a spectacular rural camp on the Eastern shore of Maryland overlooking 309 well-preserved acres spanning two miles of Chesapeake Bay shore-



line. We are an all-inclusive overnight summer camp guided by the principals of the YMCA, serving youth from kindergarten through grade 11. Our facility provides the prime location for youth to unwind, have fun being kids and gain valu-

able skills along the way.

As said before, overnight camp allows children to learn new skills and try new things. YMCA Camp Tockwogh offers a multitude of great activities and challenges for campers — whether it is their first time

or if they are returning for another summer. Activities include water skiing, sailing, lacrosse, archery, canoeing, horseback riding, zip lines, climbing walls and more! Our activities are led by staff that complete a rigorous staff training program and are trained in First Aid and activity safety guidelines.

YMCA Camp Tockwogh provides its campers with outstanding experiential learning opportunities, a safe environment to forge new friendships and the opportunity to build upon their character and gain independence away from the traditional family structure. While at YMCA Camp Tockwogh, campers choose their own schedules, participate in activities they love and choose

their own path — within a safe and fulfilling environment.

At YMCA Camp Tockwogh, we believe that overnight camp gives children access to understanding healthy living and social responsibility through the development of independence, confidence, lifelong learning and character, and are excited to welcome your family to camp.

To learn more and register today, visit www.ymca-camptockwogh.org.

Want to visit?

Attend one of YMCA Camp Tockwogh's Tour Days for a presentation with the camp directors, followed by a walking tour of camp.

Tours begin at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 18, March 18, April 22, May 20 and June 3.

CAMP DATES: JUNE 25–AUGUST 17






visit us online! → PHILLYJCC.COM/KEF




CONTACT: MARCI RUBIN, CAMP DIRECTOR
mrubin@phillyjcc.com (610) 896-7770 x123

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TOCKWOGH MINI CAMP



What is Mini Camp?

This 2 night, 3-day program is a great way to introduce your camper to overnight summer camping. It is designed for new and younger campers and offers a higher staff-to-camper ratio than our traditional summer camp. **Mini Camp** is for children who have completed grades K-5.

When is Mini Camp?

Wednesday, June 20 – Friday, June 22

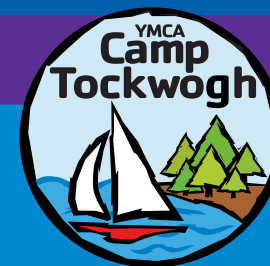
Are there other options?

Yes! We also offer one and two week sessions as well as teen leadership programs, family camp, and more!

SPOTS ARE FILLING UP FAST! REGISTER TODAY!

YMCA CAMP TOCKWOGH

24370 Still Pond Neck Rd., Worton, MD 21678
www.ymcacamptockwogh.org | (410) 348-6000



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Join us for some Friar fun in the summer!

Malvern Prep offers a variety of summer programs for boys and girls in grades one to 12 that will help students get ahead, catch up and polish their skills in a fun and relaxed environment!

Study with amazing teachers, train with elite coaches and learn SAT tips from the experts — all on our beautiful 103-acre campus in Malvern, Pa.

We hold summer classes ranging from algebra to Spanish to social entrepreneurship. Our sports camps cater to the athlete at any level — from our youngest campers learning the game to advanced high school athletes looking for that edge. And don't forget swimming lessons!

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76ERS BASKETBALL CAMP

NBA stars make summer fun a slam dunk

A highlight to the 2018 camping season promises to be the 76ers Basketball Camps.

The 76ers Basketball Camp for boys and girls, sold out for the last 17 years, has four basketball programs: Day Camps for boys and girls ages 7 to 13

with 16 locations in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania; Little Sixers Day Camps for boys and girls 5- to 7-years-old; the Overnight Camp for boys and girls ages 9 to 17 at Valley Forge Academy

in Wayne, Pa.; and the Sixers Skills Academy for 12- to 15-year-olds.

In their 34th season, the Sixers Camps have grown to over 3,000 campers each summer from 40 states and 50-plus countries.

The camp features current 76ers players/coaches, as well as several former campers and counselors now in the NBA. All three programs are geared towards teaching the fundamentals and skills in a non-competitive, age-appropriate environment.

The Sixers Camps are guided by an administration with more than 40 years of experience in sports specialty camps.

Visit the Sixers Camps website at www.sixerscamps.com for additional information or to register online. For more information, call 610-668-7676.



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2017-18 SIXERS BASKETBALL CAMPS



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With programs conceived, created and executed by The Center for the Advancement of Girls, the AIS iTeam, the Athletic Department and numerous Agnes Irwin faculty and staff, Summer at AIS gives families a glimpse into our unique community while providing the fun and excitement that only summer camp can bring! Our seven-week program offers programs for boys and girls, grades PreK-12.

And now, there are more ways than ever to save at

Summer at AIS! Our before and after care programs — Early Bird Mornings and Extended Afternoons — are included in the cost of camp! You can extend your camp day with no additional fees. A new array of discounts make camp more affordable than ever: early bird discount, sibling discount, AIS family discount and referral bonus discount offer even more opportunity to save this summer.

Register now to take advantage of these unbelievable savings. Visit our website (summeratais.org) or contact the camp office to learn more about how you can build the most exciting (and now most affordable) camp experience! Join us for the Summer of Savings at The Agnes Irwin School!



ISG

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JUNE 11 – JULY 27, 2018

BOYS & GIRLS • PREK – GRADE 12

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SUMMERATAIS.ORG

Phone: 610.672.1272

Email: summer@agnesirwin.org

NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Discover a new passion, become a stronger athlete this summer

Summer is more fun when kids are inspired to discover a new passion, become a stronger athlete or learn a new skill.

For summer 2018, the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, is offering enrichment programs designed to inspire creativity, boost athletic ability and spark the imagination.

Dance for girls in grades 3 to 9 will be offered the week of June 18 and June 25. Notre Dame's popular youth and middle school basketball camps will also be offered the week of June 18.

The Academy offers sports camps to help your child become a stronger, more confident athlete. Rowing, soccer, field hockey, tennis, lacrosse and volleyball camps are led by Notre Dame's winning varsity sports staff.

New this year — summer programs in Stone Harbor, N.J.

For more details on programs and to register, visit ndapa.org/summercamp. The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur is located at 560 Sproul Road, Villanova.



Summer at the Academy of Notre Dame



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NOTRE DAME
de NAMUR

INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN
SINCE 1856

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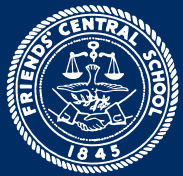
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PLAYERS 5-18 YEARS

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2018 SUMMER PROGRAMS



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



VISIT US AT FCSprograms.org

FRIENDS CENTRAL

Where young, curious minds come

Why choose a Friends' Central summer? Giving a parent the gift of a smiling child at the end of every day is the primary goal of every FCS Summer Program.

With offerings for boys and girls ages 3 to 17, we provide a variety of activities ensuring that each child will find his or her passion.

The Henry family shares, "We chose FCS because my daughter was exposed to a well-rounded program. She participated in activities familiar to her and embraced activities that were new to her. She grew as a person, became a strong swimmer and renewed friendships each year. Thanks, FCS!"

Swimming, archery, ceramics and solar-powered s'mores are just a few of the exciting activities we have offered throughout our 90-plus proven years.

Each Summer Program is managed by FCS teachers, who are committed to providing a happy, enriching, safe camp experience for every child.

The Brickle family explains, "The smiling faces on my grandsons were the best smiles ever. From cooking class to art class to nature classes, there was just so much for them to do and learn. The campus is beautiful and peaceful, and everyone we met on campus was so helpful. This is a great place to spend your summer, and trust me, it was worth it!"

Young, curious minds come alive at our magical Tenderfoot Camp. Activities and theme weeks, specially attuned to the unique interests of 3- to 6-year-old children, focus on social development, independence, curiosity and friendships.

Daily activities include swimming, nature, yoga, sports, arts and drama. Campers swim twice each day, including an instructional swim that focuses on swim safety at each child's skill level.

What makes Tenderfoot Camp different?

Lisa, a long time Friends' Central summer camp parent, says, "I chose Tenderfoot for my 5-year-old daughter because it's truly the best camp experience around. The breadth of programs and activities available at Tenderfoot, all within the bunk system, is fantastic."

Our camps are housed on our beautiful campuses in Wynnewood, Pa., providing exceptional facilities for camp activities, regardless of weather. The City Avenue campus, for our Trailblazer Camp, Summer Enrich-

ment, Basketball, Reading, and Math Clinic and more, features 28 acres, an indoor pool, three gyms, a theater, a track, 10-plus playing fields and computer labs. Our Old Gulph Road campus, which houses Tenderfoot and Mighty Maker Camps, features 18 acres, a computer lab, a nature trail, a bird blind, an outdoor pool, a pond, three playgrounds and a large gym with all-purpose floor.

"Our daughter is so happy there; how could we think of sending her anywhere else? Exploring with your friends until you're exhausted ... that's what summer's for," shares the Keaton family.

Find out more about our many offerings at fcsprograms.org.



Malvern
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**FRIAR FUN
IN THE SUMMER!**

Camps for Boys and Girls in Grades 1-12

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www.malvernprep.org/summerprograms

BENCHMARK

Learn to soar this summer

Camp keeps knowledge fresh, brains sharp, bodies active

For 47 years, Benchmark Summer Camp has bucked the idea of what a “traditional” summer camp experience should be like.

Though the camp has many activities one would expect — outdoor sports and games, swimming and arts and crafts — a Benchmark Summer Camp experience differs from many other day camps because it is purposefully divided between a language arts program and a recreation program that, together, help to address the needs of the whole child.

“Everything we do at camp — in the classroom, socially and physically — is based on working with each child to make sure specific needs are met. It is always about meeting the children where they are and working from there,” said Sally Laird, Benchmark Camp Language Arts program director.

Language Arts

The five-week camp is offered to campers entering grades one to six who can benefit from language arts instruction beyond the school year and would enjoy the activities of a recreational day-camp experience. The camp also offers one-on-one math tutoring and after-camp care.

All campers experience Benchmark’s nationally rec-

ognized language arts program, based on cognitive research and years of experience studying how children learn. The goal is for campers to become better readers and writers, have a successful classroom experience and maintain their language arts skills over the summer. This is particularly important because a “summer slide” of skills can occur when young minds sit idle throughout the summer.

“Our hope is to make reading a daily habit and have campers carry that with them even after camp ends,” Sally said.

Benchmark Camp not only teaches strategies to build a child’s academic and executive skills but also integrates confidence-building into the program.

“We want the children to know that they are in a safe environment where everyone has respect for one another as a community of learners,” Sally said. “Instruction is positive and upbeat, giving an abundance of positive reinforcement and focusing on complementing strengths.”

Campers are taught how to identify and understand the characteristics of their learning style that either impede or enhance their learning.

“It’s all about helping the children set goals for themselves and get a sense of both their strengths and what to work on,” Sally said. “It’s helping them to take control of their education, which, in turn, increases feelings of self-confidence and self-esteem.”

Confidence Course, Art Adventure, Science Discovery, Swimming & Sports

“The recreation program is also geared toward building confidence,” said Wayne Reichart, Benchmark Camp Recreation program director. “Counselors are encouraged to focus on building campers’ self-esteem and looking for the positive in everything they do.”

The recreation program also allows campers to take a “leap of faith” and soar down the 250-foot-long, 48-foot-high zip wire.

“We do this activity in week four because it allows students to build self-confidence for the first three weeks and get comfortable with the confidence course events on the ground before they are up high,” Wayne said. “It’s an exciting time for campers and their parents because taking that leap off of the platform is a huge accomplishment.”

With activities such as

Art Adventure, sports, games, swimming, Science Discovery Club, a 35-event confidence course and a zip wire, Benchmark Summer Camp has something for everyone.

“We not only aim to have a lot of fun, but we want to make sure that the campers find activities that engage them throughout the course of the day,” Wayne said.

With experienced counselors — many of whom are Benchmark Summer Camp alumni themselves — the recreation program encourages campers to get out of their comfort zones.

“I think many of the counselors see themselves in these children and feel strongly about helping them succeed and thrive just like a Benchmark counselor had done for them years before,” Wayne said.

Benchmark Summer Camp in Media runs July 2 to Aug. 3. For more information, visit www.benchmarkschool.org.

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