



4.1.24

Greetings Camp Parents,

I hope you're as excited about this summer's camp program as I am. If you're anything like me, I'll bet you can't wait for the summer to start!

With camp registration scheduled to open on April 8th, I wanted to share some information about our camp plans so you are fully apprised of the updates that have been made to this year's camp program.

New Name/ New Program - In an effort to provide a more intentional and impactful camp program to our community, the program formerly known as OSB has been redesigned and rebranded. Moving forward, our camp program for individuals entering grades 6 through 8 will be known as **MORE Camp**. For the first time, we will also be offering a separate branch of the program to those entering grade 9 through 12. The MORE acronym identifies exactly what we hope the camp will provide to its participants – **Memorable Outdoor Recreational Experiences!**

MORE Camp's mission is to enhance the personal, social and emotional growth of participants through the memorable outdoor recreation experiences they participate in. The program will seek to achieve this mission by introducing new experiences and exposing participants to natural outdoor environments. As a result, participants will have the opportunity to develop 21st century skills (critical thinking, communication, collaboration & creativity) while building confidence, self-esteem and independence.

Location - MORE Camp will operate at the J. Richard Martin Community Center. We will not be operating at the BIS School as OSB did last summer. This location shift will provide us with more autonomy over the way we utilize our space and ensure that each group has its own dedicated space that will not be shared or occupied by other equipment or belongings. The new location will also allow both campers and staff to be better supported by year round members of the Recreation Department. We are currently making updates as needed to each of the spaces we will utilize to prepare them for the summer ahead.

Schedule - MORE Camp will operate Monday through Thursday from 8am through to 5pm. Camp will not be operating on Fridays. Operating a program of this size for 5 days of the week was not financially feasible without significantly increasing the cost of camp. By reducing the program to a 4 day week we have ensured that we can offer the program at a rate comparable to our other camp programs. While the operating hours are slightly shorter than OSB's hours last summer, the change has been necessary to ensure appropriate staffing of the program. Please do not plan to arrive and drop your child off at

camp prior to 8am - the staff will not be opening the doors until the scheduled start time. Please also ensure that your child has been picked up by 5pm to avoid late pick up charges.

Program – Over the course of the summer we hope to see MORE campers progressively develop outdoor skills. This will be achieved through regular aquatic trips with a focus on paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking. As participants learn and strengthen their water based skills over the course of the summer the program will culminate in a white water rafting trip on the Kennebec River. Additionally, campers will participate in bi-weekly hiking and beach trips, a culinary program and an ongoing community service project. To round out the program and assist in fostering a strong group dynamic there will also be some special field trips and themed days at camp.

Meals – The Biddeford School nutrition program will be providing **FREE breakfast and lunch for every camper**. Meals will be delivered to our location each day and available to all who would like to receive them. Menus will be available prior to the summer and will include both hot and cold lunches depending on the day's scheduled activities.

Registration Forms – This year's camp registration form has been updated. The form will be available on the MORE Camp Webpage when registration opens. In addition to registering either online or in person at our office, the camp registration form must be completed and submitted to the Recreation Department. The PDF document is fillable online and can be emailed to summercamp@biddefordmaine.org.

The Inclusion Request Form is now included with the registration form. Please use this form, whether you are requesting accommodations or not, to ensure we have all the information needed to provide the best care possible for your child. The more we know, the better we can prepare for a successful summer.

Payments - To register for camp your Biddeford Recreation account must be in good standing, without outstanding balances, or, already have appropriate payment plans in place for any back balances. **A deposit of \$500 is required at the time of registration. The remaining balance must be paid in full before camp begins or a payment plan must be initiated that will completely pay for camp by August 15th.**

Payment plans/ automatic electronic payments will be required for all families with outstanding balances by June 14. If a payment plan has not been set up by June 21, your child will not be permitted to attend camp until a payment plan has been initiated.

If you have any additional questions please reach out to our office on (207) 283-0841.

I wish you the very best for a wonderful spring and look forward to seeing you this summer!

Daniel Hammond
Program Coordinator
Biddeford Recreation Department