

Welcome to the Twp. of Washington Summer Camp Program!

My name is Chris Pinto and I have been the camp director since the summer of 2016. My staff and I will be taking care of your children this summer and we are thankful for the opportunity. I have taught secondary special education in the Westwood Regional School District since 2012. I have also coached a variety of sports in the district over these past 9 years. I live in River Vale with my wife Beckie and our 2 sons, C.J. (8) and Dominick (5). When I took this position, it was to get a decent 2nd job for a few weeks in the summer. I had no idea how fulfilling it would become. Thank you again for your amazing trust and support these past 6 years.

In 2016, we started with 130 campers. We got as high as 450 in 2019, and this year we will be hosting 350 campers. We have also moved from Washington School to the Bethany Community Center while continuing to also utilize Memorial Field. I realize that many of you are new and aren't aware of the amount of nightly communication you'll get from me once camp begins but this one is to give you operational details and some policies/procedures of our camp only. More information regarding the camp calendar and daily schedule will be emailed to you before the weekend. Don't forget to **follow us at Twpsummerrec** on Instagram as last minute changes to drop off and pickup, as well as, pictures and videos from the camp day are always posted.

### **Dropoff and Pickup**

**\*\*\*Before and After Care drop-off and pickup is always at the Memorial Field Pavilion Before Care begins at 7:30 and After Care Ends at 6:00.\*\*\***

- Campers going into 5th through 8th grade will be dropped off at Memorial Field at 8:30.
- Campers going into Kindergarten will be dropped off at the outdoor playground at Bethany Community Center at 8:30. This entrance is directly next to the main entrance.
- Campers going into 1st and 2nd grade will be dropped off at the grass field behind Bethany Community Center at 8:30.
- Campers going into 3rd and 4th grade will be dropped off at Bethany Community Center at 8:30.
- All pickups will be at the same place as drop off at 2:30.
- Please follow the posted times and do not arrive before your allotted pickup or dropoff as we have a short amount of time to set up and break down the site each day and we do that prior to and after the posted times above.
- Your counselors should be reaching out to you this week. We ask that for now you walk your child in and sign in and out of camp with counselors.
- If someone else is picking up your child that day, let the counselor know.
- If your child is allowed to leave on his or her own, also let the counselor know at the start of camp on Monday.

### **Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

- Campers are encouraged to **wear sneakers every day.**
- **Cell Phone use is discouraged** (My counselors are instructed to have campers keep cellphones in bags and to only use them for emergencies).
- Do not send personal belongings to camp (Pokemon cards and plush toys get lost or ruined!).
  - The Twp. of Washington Summer Camp Staff is not responsible for lost items.
- Lunch and Snack are not provided and will be eaten at designated times based on group age.
  - Snacks for our younger campers will happen at roughly 10:15 every morning.
  - Lunch will occur between 11:30 and 12:30, depending upon grade and location.
- You will receive **the daily schedule by Friday evening** prior to the start of camp.

- We have allergy tables at both Memorial Field and BCC and **food safety**, along with **heat acclimatization**, is a big focus for us. Campers and friends with safe foods may eat at those designated tables.
- Send your children with a backpack, lunchbox, plenty of Sunscreen, a bathing suit, a towel and a refillable water bottle (**Names on everything**).
- If your child is going on a trip, make sure to arrive 30 minutes before scheduled departure.
- Friday is pizza day. We charge \$2 per slice and because of our size this year and to ensure that we don't have any mistakes, we will be taking orders and payment on Thursdays for Friday lunch.
- Friday is also fitness day. We will have certified coaches and trainers working with the campers doing stretching and simple age-appropriate exercises for all ability levels.
- We also offer Arts and Crafts on a daily basis.
- We have a chocolate fondue day, and other theme days for camp. Be sure to check the **calendar** (you will have it before the week is our once trips are finalized) and read my nightly updates.
- **Swimming** details will be coming out to you in the next few days as we finalize this new aspect of camp.

### **Most Updated COVID-19 Policies**

- We are following best practices when it comes to cleaning procedures, both at the field and at Bethany Community Center.
- For now, campers are required to wear masks when indoors at camp. When outside and not socially distant (rarely) they will be required to wear masks as well.
- All vaccinated people are not required to wear masks on camp grounds.

I'm sure I'm forgetting something but will send out a follow up answering the variety of questions I'm sure you'll have. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Your counselors will be phoning you over the next few days to introduce themselves and find out a bit more about each of your children.