



TO: Westport Board of Education and Dr. David Abbey, Interim Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
SUBJECT: Before School Childcare 2020-2021
DATE: April 13, 2020

Before School Childcare 2020-2021

On February 10th the Board of Education voted to delay school start times by 30 minutes, beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Shortly thereafter, the administration began exploring options for before school childcare. On February 28th, the District surveyed parents to elicit ideas and input.

Over 700 families responded, revealing the following:

- About 50 students at each elementary school would need before school care.
- The majority of these families preferred an onsite program as opposed to one requiring bussing from another location.

The survey also included one open-ended question, “What qualities are important to you in a before school program?” 241 responses were received. The strongest theme among the responses was student safety. Parents want a safe program. Most often, safety was operationalized as an experienced staff.

Parents also suggested program activities. Most often, parents requested physical activity and noted the advantages of physical activity before the start of the school day. Physical activity in the morning was seen as especially important given the decrease in time for outdoor play after school with a shift in the school schedule. While physical activity was emphasized in the responses, many parents also requested the option for academic enrichment opportunities, arts and crafts activities, or a silent reading space. Parents also noted the importance of a balance between structure and choice, and that students should have a choice based on their own interests or dispositions.

Respondents also commented on operational aspects of the program. One key theme here was the availability of breakfast – either provided by the school or by the parents themselves. Parents noted that the program must be affordable. Early start times are also critical for commuting parents. Several respondents also expressed a desire to have programs in each elementary school rather than at a centralized location.

During the same time period the survey was administered, the administration met with community organizations to explore and discuss collaborative solutions. Based on parent input and discussions with community organizations, Westport Public Schools and the Westport Weston YMCA are pleased to announce the following collaborative arrangement to provide Westport families with before school childcare.



Before School Childcare Program 2020-2021

1. Westport Public School and the Westport Weston YMCA will work collaboratively to provide a before school program for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Hours of operation 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. (Saugatuck Elementary School – adjusted to reflect start times)
3. Each elementary school will have a site-based program unless participation rates do not warrant one.
4. Transportation
 - a. Parents will be responsible for transportation to the before school program.
 - i. In the event all sites are not in operation (due to enrollment), bussing will be provided from one of the other locations.
5. All daily operations will be conducted by the Westport Weston YMCA. These include:
 - Hiring and supervising all personnel
 - Establishing fee structure
 - Planning and providing all programming and supervision
 - Collecting and processing all fees
6. Westport Public Schools will provide the YMCA with space in each elementary school building to run the program.
7. The Westport Weston YMCA will continue to offer an after-school program at the YMCA.
8. Once the before school program is established, consideration will be given to providing site-based childcare after school.
9. Timeline: Applications will go out to families the first week in June

YMCA Program Description

Enrollment Options

AM CARE	2 Days/ Week	3 Days/ Week	4 Days/ Week	5 Days/ Week
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Daily Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Care	Quiet Games 7:00-7:45a Snack 7:45-8:00a Active/creative Activities 8:00-9:00a	Quiet Games 7:00-7:45a Snack 7:45-8:00a Active/creative Activities 8:00-8:45a			

Outside or Gym whenever possible **Homework help provided daily**

**Fee Schedule Forthcoming



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Quiet Games/Activities

- Board Games
- Card Games
- Coloring/ Drawing
- Lego/Block Building

Morning Snack

Our snacks focus on whole grains, fruit or vegetables being served at every snack. We do not include fried foods, foods high in sugar or foods containing trans-fats. Water is served with each meal as well.

Active/Creative Activities

- Camp Style Group Games
- Physical Activities
- Arts and Crafts Projects



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