



April 24, 2025

PARENTING CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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campers age 4 (by 7/1) - 5th grade

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grades 1-5
Basketball, Cheer
Flag Football or
Soccer

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PARENTING,
CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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KARATE ACADEMY DEVELOPS ATTENTION SPAN



Amos Chang, 12, of Gillette demonstrates his concentration as he executes a high side kick jumping over fellow students of Chu's Academy of Martial Arts.

Chu's Academy of Martial Arts located in Gillette has been developing positive attributes in children since 1982. The Academy is led by co-owners Lydia Chu and Michelle Cavett, and Program Director Andrew Masini. All instructors are internationally certified master instructors in the traditional Korean martial art of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.

"We have been developing courage, concentration and confidence in Long Hill area children for over 40 years," said Cavett. "Our program is proven to increase such cognitive advantages as distraction control, mental focus, mindfulness, and emotional regulation," she said. "We do that through an encouraging yet disciplined environment that supports their active listening; skill building through repetition of techniques; and achievement through effort and goal setting."

"Our program is highly effective in con-

tributing to improved academics," said Chu, who is also a special services and math teacher at Watchung Hills Regional High School for nearly forty years. "We are very proud of our many students that make the honor roll and excel in leadership activities in school as a direct outcome of their participation at the academy. We even have students that star in school plays because of the confidence they gained through their martial arts training," she said.

Chu's Academy of Martial Arts accepts students aged 3-5 for their Little Dragons program, older children for their Beginner and Intermediate programs, as well as adults. They offer a complimentary assessment to assist parents in determining what benefits their children can gain from their participation. Enrollment is on-going, and more information can be found at www.karate4peace.com or by calling/texting (908)647-4194.

KIDS Summer

KARATE

10 Week Program
June 18th-August 23rd
Ages 5 & up

PROVEN RESULTS
 Focus Confidence
 Discipline Self Control
 Concentration

More info/registration:
karate4peace.com

Chu's Acaademy of Martial Arts
 630 Valley Road, Gillette (908)647-4194

‘MULTILINGUALISM IS A SUPERPOWER’

HWIS encourages students to share stories of how multilingual skills have made a difference

HudsonWay Immersion School (HWIS), a pioneer in language immersion education is proud to sponsor an essay contest “Multilingualism is a Superpower” open to public and private school students in grades 3-8 in the NY/NJ area. Since its founding 20 years ago HudsonWay Immersion School has been at the forefront supporting students in developing biliteracy in Mandarin or Spanish as well as English.

Given the recent signing by President Trump declaring English as the official language in the U.S., funding for dual language programs and foreign language education is at risk. This contest aims to help remind us of the value of learning multiple languages in furthering cultural understanding, communication and collaboration for future generations.

Students in grades 3-6 are invited to submit an essay up to 300 words written in English and either Chinese or Spanish describing a factual experience in which knowing another language has benefited others. Contest awards totaling \$2000 will be distributed in 4 categories - Grades 3-5 for Chinese/English, Grades 3-5 for Spanish/English, Grades 6-8 for Chinese/English and Grades 6-8 for Spanish/English. Essays can be submitted to hwis.org by April 30, 2025 with winners announced May 16, 2025.

“We often hear of so many examples where students have been able to use their language skills and have meaningful connections with others, benefiting them and

‘We often hear of so many examples where students have been able to use their language skills and have meaningful connections with others, benefiting them and having an impact for the greater good. In celebration of HudsonWay’s 20th anniversary we thought it would be great to capture these stories highlighting the importance of these skills for the broader community.’

SHARON HUANG

Founder of Hudson Way Immersion School

having an impact for the greater good. In celebration of HudsonWay’s 20th anniversary we thought it would be great to capture these stories highlighting the importance of these skills for the broader community. Opening this up to all the public and private school students grades 3-8 gives us an opportunity to engage with a broader group of students”, said founder Sharon Huang.

For more information about this contest, awards and how to enter, please visit <https://hwis.org/essay-contest/> or contact the school’s communications team at info@hwis.org.

About HudsonWay Immersion School (HWIS):

HudsonWay Immersion School is an independent bilingual school offering Mandarin and Spanish immersion programs for students from preschool through grade 8. HWIS’s mission is to prepare students for success in an interconnected world by providing a comprehensive bilingual education grounded in academic excellence, cultural competency, and community engagement.

CONTACT: SHARON HUANG

HudsonWay Immersion School
201-650-9776
shuang@hwis.org



Students at Hudson Way Immersion School practice practice science writing in Spanish, above left, and writing a story in Mandarin, above right.



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SUMMER CAMP
2025



**BROADWAY
DRAMA**

JUL 7 – JUL 18



ROBOTS AND AI
JUL 21 – AUG 1



**UNDERWATER
DISCOVERY**
AUG 4 – AUG 8



HUDSONWAY
IMMERSION SCHOOL

AGES 2-12 | 9AM TO 3PM | EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE | WWW.HWIS.ORG/SUMMER



2025 International Sleepaway Camp
An Immersive Language Experience in a Traditional Camp Setting



Ages 8 – 13

July 13 – July 26

English | Mandarin | Spanish

hwis.org/sleepaway



KIDSQUEST CAMPERS

KidsQuest campers Valentina Rojas, Malu Lima Mayland, Luca Piotti, Autumn DePerry, and Katelyn Murray—all 8 years old and from Madison—join camp counselors Elise Hart and Garrett Lasky in dancing their way through a summer filled with friendship, connection, and unforgettable memories!

Photo by
Lisa Tubbs



It's church - but not as you know it!

A relaxed, all-ages evening of faith, fun, and connection
Second Tuesdays | 6-7:30pm | Fellowship Hall

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ppch.org/messychurch

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PLUCKEMIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MESSY CHURCH IS CHURCH—BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT!

Messy Church at Pluckemin Presbyterian Church (PPC) isn't your typical church service—it's worship that welcomes everyone just as they are, no dress code, no early alarms, no experience needed.

Located at 279 Route 202-206 in Pluckemin, PPC is home to a vibrant, monthly gathering designed for families in all stages in life. Whether you're navigating life with toddlers, teens, or grandparents—or somewhere in between—Messy Church offers a space to grow together in faith through fun, food, and friendship.

Messy Church is part of a global movement built on the belief that faith is something to grow into, not out of. Since launching in September 2021, PPC's Messy Church has become a meaningful monthly tradition for many families in the area. Gatherings take place on the second Tuesday of each month and include a shared meal, a short and engaging Christian message, contemporary Christian music, and a hands-on activity like a craft or game that everyone can enjoy—yes, even grandparents!

"It's church—but designed with real life in mind," says Chris Staffin, Director of Child and Family Ministries. "We're all juggling so much. Messy Church gives us a way to come together, slow down, and reconnect with God and each other in a way that feels relaxed and joyful."

If you're part of the "sandwich generation," balancing children and aging parents, Messy Church might be just what your family needs. There's no prep, no pressure—and maybe the best part? Dinner's on us.

Here's what a few of our Messy Church participants have shared:

"I like the craft part. I like that the craft is sometimes messy. I like that the craft is fun. I like learning about God. I love singing all the songs." – Samantha, age 8

"I like when we eat pizza. I like when Pastor Ian asks questions, and I can answer. When Pastor Ian tells a story it's fun. I like seeing my friends at Messy Church." – Tommy, age 8

'It's church—but designed with real life in mind. We're all juggling so much. Messy Church gives us a way to come together, slow down, and reconnect with God and each other in a way that feels relaxed and joyful.'

CHRIS STAFFIN

Director of Child and Family Ministries

"Messy Church was our pathway back to church after having kids. It's low-stress and family-friendly. I love the contemporary music and singing with my children, and I really enjoy catching up with other families in the church community. It's become a special part of our lives." – Chrissie, age 40

Photos, videos, and more details about this creative, come-as-you-are worship experience are available at ppch.org/ministries/messy-church.

About the Church: The Pluckemin Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a hub of caring in the community. We want people to know and experience the reconciling love of Jesus Christ through our church as we gather and serve together to "Know God's Love, Show God's Love, and Share God's love."

Visit ppch.org for more detailed information.

Editors' note: This article was contributed by Pluckemin Presbyterian Church.



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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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FRIENDSHIP IS THE HEART OF CAMP

QUEST CAMPS

Preschool - Entering Grade 9

CAMP BEGINS JUNE 16




MADISON AREA YMCA
111 Kings Road, Madison, NJ 07940
973-822-YMCA (9622)
madisonareaymca.org/camp

- **MiniQuest** (Ages 3-4 years) at the **Kirby Center**
- **KidsQuest** (Grades K-5) & **L.I.T.** (Grades 6-9) at **Drew University**
- **SpecialtyQuest** (Grades K-5) at the **Family Center**
- **TravelQuest** (Grades 3-8) at the **Family Center**

DAY AND RESIDENT CAMPS

ART OF DANCE

Summer Address: 15 Seminary Ave., Chester, N.J. 07930

Summer Phone: 908-879-4919

Email: artofdancestaff@artofdance.org

Website: artofdance.org

Director: Valerie Harman

The Art of Dance is a family-owned dance studio in beautiful downtown Chester. The studio is in its 56th year of teaching dance to children, as well as adults. The Art of Dance has a summer jam packed with dance and fun with programs for all ages and abilities. For children 3-7 years old, there are Frozen, Princess and other weekly themed dance camps, with dance, crafts and more starting June thru August.

There are classes and Boot Camps in all styles of dance and Musical Theater for children and teens.

For the serious dancer there is a week-long Ballet Intensive August 4-8 with Master teachers from New York City Ballet and the American Ballet Theater, and a Dance Intensive Aug 11-15 with teachers from NYC and LA. For our adults we offer tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and dance fitness.

Be sure to register early as classes fill quickly.

Don't miss out on the fun!

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Summer Address: The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster, N.J. 07921

Summer Phone: 908-234-2345

Fax: 908-275-8828

E-mail: info@ccabedminster.org

Website: www.ccabedminster.org

Director: Ged Ong, Director of Education Programs and Operations

Weekly programs offered for children and teens ages five through 15. Fees range from \$294 to \$347 per week. Special Needs camp is \$120 for six weeks. Sessions are one week.

Weekly in-person summer art camps for children and teens ages 5 – 15 are designed to stimulate creative expression through projects and activities that change each week. Summer Art Camps run June 16 through August 29. Summer Art Camps are for half or full-day camps.

Programs:

Morning Art - 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Students ages 5-8 and 9-11 will engage in two-and three-dimensional creative exploration through painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media and more. Teens will explore a single medium in depth.

Afternoon Art - 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Young artists ages 5-8 will enjoy themed programs that change each week while 9-11 year olds and teens will explore a single medium in depth.

DELBARTON SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Address: 230 Mendham Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960

Summer Phone: 973-538-3231 ext. 3019

E-mail: ccurnow@delbarton.org

Website: delbartonsummer.com

Director: Sports Camps: Jake Ross and Kendall Rogers; Academic Courses: John Thompson; Arts Programs: Andrew Lyman

Delbarton offers ten unique sports camps for boys in grades 4-9.

Co-ed academics programs for students grades 4-12 designed to meet the needs of any student. Available sessions include SAT/ACT prep, advance credit courses, and skill sharpeners for writing, reading, and math.

New this year: a co-ed arts program. Fees vary according to sports camp or academic/arts program. Session lengths are one to five weeks.

Time for Summer fun and learning! Register now for sports camps and summer courses at Delbarton School in Morristown.

For boys grades 4-9, ten unique sports camps are held weekly, driven by the tradition of excellence that is synonymous with Green Wave sports.

Delbarton also offers co-educational academics and arts programs for students grades 4-12 designed to meet the needs of any student.

Available sessions include SAT/ACT prep, advance credit courses, and skill sharpeners for writing, read-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

CALDERONE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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276 Morris Ave., Springfield

973-428-0405
34 Ridgedale Ave., E. Hanover



EST. 1975

DAY AND RESIDENT CAMPS

FROM PAGE 8

ing, and math. Learn more about our summer programs and sign up delbartonsummer.com.

HUNTERDON ART MUSEUM

Summer Address: Hunterdon Art Museum, 7 Lower Center Drive, Clinton, N.J. 08809.

Summer phone: 908-735-8415

Fax: 908-735-8416

Email: educ_staff@hunterdonartmuseum.org

Website: www.hunterdonartmuseum.org

Director of Education and Community Engagement: Donna de Ville

Hunterdon Art Museum's Summer Camp sessions are immersive experiences for children of all abilities, ages 5-14, designed to ignite the imagination and spark creativity. Each camp session is a half-day, week-long program focused on a specific art medium or theme.

Two weekly sessions are offered (a.m. and p.m.) for each age group. Classes are held in the museum's studios. Fees vary depending on the program selected. Please visit the website for more information.

JCC CAMP RUACH

Summer Address: 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807

Summer Phone: 908-443-9026

E-mail: asteinberg@ssbjcc.org

Website: www.jcccampruach.org

Director: Alanna Steinberg

Programs are 3 years old through 9th Grade, coed, vocational programs, full inclusions. Sessions range from four to nine weeks.

JCC Camp Ruach is an extraordinary day camp located on over 14 beautiful acres of land. Our 9-week program offers campers ages 2 years through grade 9 a fun-filled summer! JCC Camp Ruach is dedicated to your child's safety and well-being. We know your child will have a fantastic summer through our supportive and nurturing environment while participating in a wide variety of activities and dynamic programs. Highlights include sports, swim (indoor and outdoor), ropes courses, karate, theater, art, music, dance, cooking, zip line, mini-golf, archery, community service projects, day trips, week long overnight trips, and more. At JCC Camp Ruach there are no additional fees for lunch – for those on site, snacks, daily activities, trips and even overnights. Busing for full day campers to and from camp are also included at no additional cost!

Summertime is an opportunity for children to play, experiment and grow with friends. We also offer a special needs inclusion camp program and various specialty camp.

MADISON AREA YMCA QUEST CAMPS

MiniQuest, KidsQuest, SpecialtyQuest, TravelQuest, Leader In Training day camps

Summer Address: Drew University, 36 Madison Ave., Madison, N.J. 07940

Summer Phone: 973-822-9622

Fax: 973-377-1064

E-mail: QuestCamps@madisonymca.org

Website: www.madisonareaymca.org/camp

Director: Finola Colon

MiniQuest (preschool, ages 3-4) \$1,020/ 2 weeks (at the F.M. Kirby Children's Center of the Madison Area YMCA) – full day program; \$452/ 2 weeks (at the F.M. Kirby Children's Center of the Madison Area YMCA) – half day program.

KidsQuest (entering kindergarten – grade 5) \$1,040/ 2 weeks (at Drew University).

SpecialtyQuest (entering kindergarten – grade 5) \$1,060/ 2 weeks (at Madison Area YMCA Family Center).

TravelQuest (entering grade 3 – 8) \$1,200/ 2 weeks (at Madison Area YMCA Family Center)

Leader In Training (L.I.T.) program (entering grades 6-9) \$597/ 2 weeks (at Drew University).

Financial assistance may be available. Session lengths are 10 weeks (five 2-week sessions)

At Quest Camps 2025, friendship is the heart of camp. Campers from preschool through entering grade 9 step into a world where curiosity never goes out of style and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

RIVER CROSSING YMCA

INCREDIBLE SUMMERS

HAPPEN HERE!

YMCA Summer Camps in Hunterdon County offer a variety of exciting programs, from traditional day camps to sports, arts, STEM and nature exploration. With flexible schedules, engaging activities, and financial assistance available, every child can enjoy a summer of learning and new friendships!

REGISTER FOR CAMP!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE or visit
ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/

the **Y** YMCA



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WWW.SPSCHATHAM.ORG

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2025**

Session 2
**AUG 4 - 8
2025**

Early Bird Price
\$300

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and fun party
options**

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the area!**

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www.doversportsplex.com

DAY AND RESIDENT CAMPS

FROM PAGE 9

summer feels like a blank space waiting to fill with adventure! Imagine a camp that blends the classics of camp fun and epic games with the wonders of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). At Quest Camps, it is a fearless pursuit of friendship, invention, and a summer that stays enchanted in your memory long after it ends. Whether you sign up for a fortnight (2 weeks) or drop-in week, let's make those friendship bracelets together! Are you ready for it?

With three locations (Drew University, F.M. Kirby Children's Center and the Family Center), Quest Camps is the place where wide-eyed wonder and ingenious discoveries intersect, friendships make the whole place shimmer, and campers embark on unforgettable summer days beyond their wildest dreams.

From preschool through 9th grade, campers will have a great experience reaching their goals by building character and independence through a variety of age-appropriate activities. Join us for full or half-day MiniQuest (preschool, ages 3-4) located at the F.M. Kirby Children's Center of the Madison Area YMCA, KidsQuest (entering kindergarten - grade 5), or Leader In Training camps (entering grades 6-9), both located at Drew University. SpecialtyQuest (entering kindergarten - grade 5) is located at the Family Center and includes traditional day camp activities in addition to options for a deeper dive into one of our program areas; choose from Gymnastics, School of Performing Arts, Sports, Fine Arts and Y Ninja Gym. NEW for Summer 2025 is TravelQuest (entering Grade 3 - Grade 8); during weeks 9 and 10, campers will experience a variety of trips. Campers depart each day at approximately 9 a.m. Throughout the summer, the Y incorporates its four core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility. Our summer camp experience guarantees to be full of opportunities, adventure and friendships.

Our trained, qualified and caring Y staff run all camps. We offer five two-week camp sessions so that our campers have ample time to engage in projects and activities that are more comprehensive as they bond with each other. Our two-week sessions have built-in reduced rates, including lunch! Not able to come for the full two-week session? No problem! Sign-up for our one-week drop-in program. The health and safety of our campers and staff is our top priority. We continue to follow the most current guidelines from health authorities, the state and local governments, the CDC, and American Camp Association as we create a safe and healthy camp experience.

At the Y, we believe that every child should be able to enjoy the best summer camp experience possible. The Madison Area YMCA is a mission-driven charitable organization, committed to providing an enriching camp experience for all, and providing help to families who may not be able to afford the full price of camp. Financial assistance may be available. Join us for what will be the best summer ever!

NEW HORIZONS DAY CAMP

Summer Address: 235 Brooklake Road, Florham Park, N.J. 07932

Summer Phone: 973-850-6640

E-mail: info@NewHorizonsDayCamp.com
Website: www.NewHorizonsDayCamp.com

Director: Mike Wynne, Program Director

Programs are for rising PreK - 9th grade campers. Fees vary based on total weeks attending. Please visit the website for a rate sheet. Session lengths are 8 Weeks, June 23 - August 15. There is a minimum enrollment of 2 weeks.

New Horizons Day Camp is New Jersey's premier, fully customizable camp program! You camper can experience

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

DAY AND RESIDENT CAMPS

FROM PAGE 10

something new, take a deep-dive into an existing interest, or mix-and-match 100+ activities to create THEIR perfect summer! PreK through 9th Grade!

NEW JERSEY BALLET

Summer Address: 7-9 Vreeland Road, Florham Park, N.J. 07932

Summer Phone: 973-597-9600

Fax: 973-377-2528

E-mail: info@njballet.org

Website: www.njballet.org/njbschool

Director: Maria Kowroski

Session Lengths are as follows:

Summer Intensive: July 14 – Aug 2, 2025 (Ages 12-20; Audition required)

Elite Youth Intensive: July 7 – July 11, 2025 (Ages 8-13; Audition required)

Open Youth Intensive: June 30 – July 3, 2025 (Ages 8-13; No Audition required)

Students will train at our state-of-the-art facility under New Jersey Ballet School's distinguished faculty.

The program will support each technical level and provide a high caliber of training in a nurturing artistic environment.

Don't miss this fun and exciting opportunity to train with some of the best in the industry. Apply today and be part of the future of dance!

RIVER CROSSING YMCA SUMMER CAMPS IN HUNTERDON COUNTY

Summer Addresses: (varies by location, see below)

Website: <https://ymcarivercrossing.org/summer-camps/hunterdon>

Camp Carr, 1 Camp Buck Rd., Annandale, NJ 08801
Deer Path Camp, 144 W. Woodschurch Rd., Flemington, NJ 08822

Echo Hill Camp, 42 Lilac Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822
Lambertville Camp, 301 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Rd., Lambertville, NJ 08530

Tewksbury Camp, 209 Fairmount Rd. East, Califon, NJ 07830

River Crossing YMCA offers five summer camp locations in Hunterdon County, featuring:

- Flexible options: full-day, half-day and extended care
- Traditional and specialty camps: sports, arts, STEM, and nature
- A safe and engaging environment where kids build confidence and friendships
- Weekly themes, activities and special events

Financial assistance is available.

SCHOOL OF SAINT ELIZABETH

Summer Address: 30 Seney Dr., Bernardsville, N.J. 07924

Summer Phone: 908-766-0244

E-mail: info@steschool.org

Website: www.steschool.org

Director: Deacon Russ Raffay – Principal

Please visit www.steschool.org for information about fees. School of Saint Elizabeth, a Pre-K-8 Catholic elementary school, is the ideal, affordable choice for parents looking for a faith-based environment offering academic excellence inspired by service.

Students are encouraged to build core values through participation in service projects and charitable initiatives both in and out of the classroom.

Our traditional learning model is rooted in faith and family, and our school family actively engages in liturgy, events and community service through Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and the Diocese of Metuchen.

SEATON HACKNEY STABLES EQUESTRIAN SUMMER CAMP

Summer Address: 440 South Street, Morristown, N.J. 07960

Summer Phone: 973-644-3355

Fax: 973-644-3535

E-mail: seatonh@verizon.net

Website: www.seatonhackney.com

Director: Gillian Barta

Camp is for children ages 5 to 17 years, all levels. Fees are \$575 for ½ day weekly, \$895 for full day weekly and \$995 for Advanced Camp. Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and for full day 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wondering what your child can do over the summer? Looking for something different that combines the great outdoors with education and fun? Seaton Hackney's Equestrian Summer Camp turns your child's ordinary summer into a summer of exciting exploration. Through hands-on activities and themed events, we make our Equestrian Summer Camp fun and educational by

expanding their knowledge and love of horses with helping them make connections to the world.

Campers learn basic safety, grooming, tacking and barn management skills.

They ride 2-3 times daily, either in lessons, on trail rides, lungeing sessions, vaulting or Equisthenics. In addition, campers receive daily Badges in many different topics including equine breeds, colors and markings, equine health and First Aid, braiding and Show grooming, careers in the industry (demonstrations by vet and farrier) and other exciting horsemanship matters.

'TRUE NORTH' VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School at Pluckemin Church

Summer Address: 279 Route 202-206, Pluckemin, N.J. 07978

Summer Phone: 908-658-3346

E-mail: Chris@ppch.org

Website: <https://ppch.org/vbs>

Director: Chris Staffin

This Christian camp is open to all children ages 4 (by July 1, 2025) through 6th grade. Youths who have completed 6th grade may sign up to be a youth volunteer. Register on the church website by June 1st. Fees are \$25 for one

child; \$20 for each additional child in a family. Sessions are one week, July 7-11th, 9 a.m. – noon each day.

During this fun, action-packed, wilderness-themed one-week camp, your child will go on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today! True North VBS will point them toward Jesus as they learn about God's love for them through games, music, Bible adventures, arts & crafts, and more! Each day will have a different theme and activities. The camp is held both indoors and outdoors on the 6-acre campus of the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. Our goal is to know God's love, show God's love, and share God's love with those in our community.

VBS SPORTS CAMP

Summer Address: Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, 45 Church Street, Liberty Corner, N.J. 07938

Summer Phone: 908-647-0340

E-mail: kellyt@libertycorner.org

Website: <https://libertycorner.org/sports-camp>

Director: Kelly Tancredi, Director of Family Ministries; Spencer Ashnault, Camp Leader

VBS Sports Camp is open to campers age 4 years (by July 1) through 5th grade (grade entering in September 2025). Volunteer leadership positions are available for students in middle school and high school. Students receive 25+ service hours as well as leadership training. Registration and references required. Fees are \$80/camper or \$240 for 3 or more siblings. Registration is required. Use the discount code EARLYBIRD before February 1, 2025, and save 20%. VBS Sports Camp will be held July 21-25, 2025, from 9 am to 12:15 pm daily.

Liberty Corner Kids is hosting Blaze a Trail, an action-packed week of VBS Sports Camp from July 21-25 for kids age four (by July 1) through grade 5. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day on the campus of Liberty Corner Church. Pre-K and kindergarten campers will be part of Team 45 and will focus on movement and coordination through a variety of sports activities.

Campers in grades 1-5 may choose from basketball, cheerleading, or soccer. All campers will participate with energizing music and games, Bible stories, and snacks. We aim to inspire campers to "Blaze a Trail" and achieve extraordinary things through faith and determination. Registration is required for and available online only at libertycorner.org/sports-camp.

THE WORK-FAMILY CONNECTION

Summer Address: District of the Chatham Schools, Chatham, N.J. 07928

Summer Phone: 908-534-5935

Fax: 908-534-5985

E-mail: info@theworkfamilyconnection.org

Website: theworkfamilyconnection.org

Director: Vera Moncur

WFC Summer Camp is for campers entering K-8th grade in the coming fall. Fees are \$465 per week. Weekly sessions are from June 16 – August 15.

WFC Camp offers Enrichment Clubs in the mornings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

DAY AND RESIDENT CAMPS

FROM PAGE 11

and pool time in the afternoons, and on Thursdays, we travel off site for exciting trips.

Enrichment clubs include coding, sports, cooking, visual arts, gardening, reader's theatre, performing arts, and more, taught by talented and professional instructors.

Full day trips include water parks, museums, the beach, amusement parks, and more! Camp runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended care options available.

YMCA CAMP MASON

Summer Address: 23 Birch Ridge Road, Hardwick, N.J. 07825

Summer Phone: 908-362-8217

E-mail: shani@campmason.org

Website: www.campmason.org

Director: Anna Bilton

YMCA Camp Mason is a co-ed, inclusive camp open to all aged 7-16.

Fees are \$1,390 (one week), \$2,520 (two weeks). Sibling and multi session discounts and financial assistance are available. Session lengths are 1 or 2 weeks.

At YMCA Camp Mason, located in the spectacular Delaware Water Gap region of northwest NJ, our camp experience is transformative.

For 125 years, we have welcomed campers to our caring, diverse, inclusive community.

We strive for excellence and innovation and believe that every child deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Our extensive list of proven programs and activities and caring, trained counselors engage and encourage young people and deliver meaningful and memorable experiences.

If you are ready for your child to have THE BEST SUMMER EVER, go to www.campmason.org, call 908-362-8217 or email shani@campmason.org for more information or to register.



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There are many options available for parents planning for their child's college education.

How To PLAN FOR COLLEGE EXPENSES

(StatePoint) Each year, a majority of American parents of college students are confronted with higher-than-expected costs for tuition and room and board, according to a College Ave survey. The same survey finds that the price tag on other college-related expenses, such as books, activity fees and transportation, also catch large portions of parents by surprise.

"Making a concrete plan to pay for college can help you overcome that initial sticker shock and navigate these important years with less financial stress," says Dan Kennedy, chief marketing officer, College Ave. Kennedy recommends taking the following steps to create your plan for paying for college:

Seek aid each year: Don't forget to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year your child is in school. This is the only way to receive need-based grants, loans and work-study offers from the federal government.

Read and compare financial aid award letters carefully: Use each school's financial aid award letter, delivered in the spring, to get an apples-to-apples comparison of costs.

Calculate the net direct cost of each school by subtracting offered scholarships and grants from the total cost of attendance. If applicable, you can subtract work-study aid too. You should also factor in expected year-to-year increases in tuition, room, board and other fees. This analysis can help you narrow down schools within financial reach for your family.

Consider appealing: While an award package can seem like it's set in stone, you may be able to appeal for more aid from the school of your choice. Don't be afraid to ask for more aid if your financial situation has changed.

Look for outside assistance: Scholarships are typically based on merit or talents and can provide substantial assistance. Colleges and universities themselves award scholarships, as do national and local organizations. One of the easiest scholarships to apply for is the College Ave \$1,000 scholarship sweepstakes. The submission process does not even require an essay and you can apply every month. Encourage your student to continue applying for scholarships year-round, as every little bit helps.

Explore private student loans: The College Board reported that the average amount of aid that undergraduate students received in grants, federal loans, tax credits and work-study programs was \$16,360 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Considering that the average total cost of attendance for a public four-year school that same year was \$24,920 for in-state students, you might need more aid than your college initially offers. Private student loans are a great option to help supplement your financial needs. Shop around for a great rate and loan terms you can work with. Use College Ave's student loan calculator to ensure you know the cost of borrowing and what your monthly payment might look like. It can be found at: collegeave.com/calculators.

For a private student loan, and for additional tips and resources for college-bound families, visit collegeave.com.

"With a clear financial plan, your family can stress less and enjoy the excitement that comes with sending your child to college," says Kennedy.

This article was contributed by StatePoint.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY DEVICE HABITS

(StatePoint) What are TikTok's privacy settings? Can parents control what advertising their children see on Facebook? How do parents limit the amount of time their children spend on Instagram?

A new parent tool, the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms, offers the answers and will be handy for parents of children trying out new phones or other tech-related holiday gifts. The American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health developed the free resource, which contains detailed information on popular digital platforms, including Apple, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok and X, with more to come.

"Parenting around media can be so challenging," said Jenny Radesky, MD, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence. "Figuring out what apps and settings are best for your family is an important part of the conversation. At the center, we created the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms to make it a little easier for parents to learn about each app and figure out what settings and tools exist to keep their kid safe while connecting online."

Users click on a platform to learn about its default and customizable safety settings; messaging and friending controls; screen-time management settings; parental controls and more.

Parents aren't the only ones looking for assistance

when it comes to the online world. Pediatric providers, teachers and others who work with children and teens can introduce the glossary briefly during clinic visits, back-to-school nights, in newsletters, or other communications and encourage families to have conversations about safe and balanced relationships with social media. The tool can also facilitate conversations on concepts like private versus public accounts, time limits and how to block or filter upsetting content.

Here are some examples of how the glossary can be used:

- If children have iPhones, parents can learn more about the Family Sharing feature, which includes settings to limit who a child can contact, downtime/do-not-disturb settings and the Ask To Buy option that requires a parent to approve purchases.

- If social media and notifications are distracting teens at night, families can use the glossary to look up apps and how to silence notifications or activate other nighttime settings.

- For teens who are stressed out by negative content on social media feeds, the glossary contains information on tools to curate feeds and block and filter content.

- If a child's school has a phone policy, families can look up device or app settings to silence distracting apps during school hours.

The glossary joins a roster of resources available at Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, which includes conversation starters for parents concerned about how their children are using social media.

The center's activity cards can help young children build healthy relationships with media and their devices before they grow into teens and young adults.

Megan Moreno MD, MSED, MPH, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence, urges parents and other adults to avoid taking a doom-and-gloom approach when talking about the sometimes-dangerous social media landscape with kids.

"We can give ourselves grace for these initial reactions of worry and fear, but we have a choice to make on what we want our reaction to be going forward," Dr. Moreno said. "We can choose open-mindedness. We can choose curiosity. We can choose evidence over hype, and we can stay centered on our children and families."

This article was contributed by StatePoint.



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CAMP EXPANDS THE WORLD

Camp is not just recreation and fun. It is more than teaching skills, such as archery or swimming. It is about understanding the beauty of discovery that can lead to emotional growth and maturation.

It is the expansion of one's world, a sharpening of one's vision that invites the acquisition of lifelong lessons, according to the American Camp Association (ACA).

Camp professionals are not just teachers or counselors; they are coaches and mentors.

They influence, advocate, shape, love, and protect. And it is true, both young and old do learn lessons from the camp experience. However, those lessons come after experiences that are real, relevant, and personal. "It is the development of a child as a person that is equally as important as academics," former owner of Camp Chickagami Ruth Isserman said. Further, "it's the richness of making their own entertainment" and the most important skills we contribute are listening and observing. "We are building better people for a better world," she stated.

"Who will care when I'm not there?" It's every parent's question when they leave their children in the hands of strangers. Who will take the time to appreciate basic child development, as well as the unique qualities of their personalities? Who will ensure that my children have fun and, at the same time, learn important life lessons? Who will help my children understand how they can work as a team, contributing and succeeding? Who will help my children understand the importance of a community and the responsibilities that lie within? Who will keep my children safe and guard their tender feelings while they are acting invincible? Who will care when I'm not there?

The answer to these questions is the camp professional. They offer children the opportunity to explore, discover, and learn about the best things life has to offer. They are willing to laugh, talk and cry with children, creating an understanding of social bonding. These are the

**Camp is an equal
opportunity life-changer.**

**By sending a child
to camp, families
are truly giving a gift
that lasts a lifetime.**

people who are willing to care when I am not there.

ACA offers a variety of tips on how to choose the right summer camp for your child:

When beginning the camp selection process, consider your child's interests. It's important to know a child's personality and identify what camp programs will benefit him or her most. With a variety of programs and activities, summer camp offers fun and meaningful adventures to match a child's interests and maturity level.

Be certain to include your child in the decision-making process. Together with your child, explore the camp options and examine the materials the camps provide. In addition, many camps have web sites that include photos, maps or virtual tours of the camp facility, sample daily schedules and menus, and information about the directors and key staff. As children become better acquainted with the camp experience and more involved in the decision-making process, they will have less anxiety about going away to camp.

The camp experience is a win-win for everyone. Parents win because their children grow and learn. Children win because they have fun and collect lifelong friends and memories. Society wins because the camp experience helps make healthy, productive adults. Camp professionals win because they have made a positive difference in a child's life.

Camp is an equal opportunity life-changer. By sending a child to camp, families are truly giving a gift that lasts a lifetime.

CELEBRATING LIFE'S SACRED MOMENTS

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