

Happy Summer Level Green!

We are excited for another year at the playground program! Returning as directors this year are Hailey Ford and Anthony Monroe. We have a newcomer this year, Aaron Burdell, who is excited to be joining the team. We are looking forward to seeing our friends from last year along with fresh faces as well!

Let's meet the team. First up is Hailey. Hailey is a graduate of Penn Trafford, currently furthering her education at The University of Pittsburgh. Her major is Early Childhood and Special Education, with a possible minor in Africana Studies. Hailey has multiple hobbies outside of her studies. She has been a competitive equestrian for 15 years. She also enjoys painting, ceramics, working out, and spending quality time with close friends and family.

Second is Anthony. Anthony is a graduate of PennTrafford as well. He played baseball for the high school team as well as the Bushy Run Legion. Anthony is furthering his education at Bethany College as he studies Pre-Physical Therapy. He is also on the school's baseball team to continue his journey as an athlete.

Last but certainly not least is Aaron. Aaron is going to be a junior at Penn Trafford High School this coming school year. He participates on the school's swimming and lacrosse teams. Though this takes up much of his time, he enjoys filling the rest of his schedule with snowboarding, playing chess, lifting weights, and playing video games. Aaron is a certified lifeguard, so you may see him lifeguarding at the highschool pool during PTARC activities.

All of the directors at Level Green this summer cannot wait for the summer fun to start. We plan on ensuring your children are safe and happy all summer long. We have a multitude of fun activities planned for the program ranging from traditional games to exciting new art projects that cater to all the children's interests and needs!

There are a few reminders to ensure that we can all have a safe and fun filled summer! The dress code this summer is a simple one. Always make sure that your child is wearing tennis shoes that allow them to run around, kick balls, and participate in games without any worry. Without tennis shoes, they will not be able to be included in all the fun activities we have planned this summer! To reiterate, no flip flops, sandals, or crocs. They must be tennis shoes! If a child is dropped off without tennis shoes, parents will be notified, and the child will have to sit out of the more active events. Please also make sure that everyone is dressed

appropriately as they would for school. Shorts and tank tops are encouraged due to the warm weather, but please ensure that outfits being worn would fit the standard of a normal school dress code. Please also make sure your child has sunscreen on prior to showing up for the day. There are many kids and only a few playground directors so we will not have the ability to apply sunscreen at the program. If your child is able to apply themselves and you wish for them to reapply throughout the day, you are more than welcome to send them with sunscreen to keep inside their lunchbox!

Due to the hot weather, we will be taking many water breaks throughout the day. That being said, the playground does not provide water bottles. We will bring a large water jug with us everyday, but children will need to provide their own water bottle. As water does go quickly on the hot summer days, we encourage you to send your child with 1-2 cold water bottles so they can rehydrate after their fun in the sun!

Along with water bottles, we also encourage children to pack a lunch or a snack to bring along with them. We do not have snacks or lunches to hand out, so any food that they want will have to be brought with them. Please label your water bottles and lunches with your child's name to avoid them being lost, damaged, or sent home to the wrong family! There are times that we plan a picnic feast for the kids, so even though you marked your child's allergies when signing them up, please remind the playground directors on the day of events like these. We always want to make sure everyone is safe and happy!

Here at Level Green Playground we like to get messy, so please don't send your child in nice clothes! There will be several activities throughout the summer where kids will be getting wet, messy, or both! On days like those, we will send out an extra reminder for non-important clothes to be worn and to suggest a towel to be laid down in the car upon pickup.

Our day will start with a morning meeting to ensure that the kids remember the rules of the playground and to go over any issues we'd have in the previous days or week. This has proved to be an effective way to keep our ship running smoothly. Additionally, after the morning meeting we play one required game or do one required activity. We use this as a social building activity to bring our level green family closer together and make sure that we all play well alongside each other. Even if it is not your kids favorite game, we ask them all to participate in that first game of the day. The game switches daily, so even if that game isn't your child favorite, the next day may be!

Our last rules of the playground: No outside toys and no phones. If your child brings a phone, we ask them to keep it in their lunchbox, or it can be kept with the director's belongings for the day where it will be safe and out of harm's way. If you need to talk to your child or your child needs to reach you, they are more than welcome to come to one of the directors and ask them to send a message on Remind. All of the directors have their phones on them to keep an open line of communication between parents, children, and the other directors. That being said, please make sure you are signed up for the Remind! That is our way of communicating with the parents. If a child wants to be picked up early, if bad weather is approaching and we need you to pick up your child, or if there are any injuries, Remind is how you will know. We also like to take pictures of the kids having fun to send to you back home! The playground program is only 4 hours a day. Let's get off our screens and spend quality time in the sun!

The main points of this letter are to wear tennis shoes, no phones or other electronic devices, wear sunscreen and please bring water! We aim to have as much fun as we can this summer, and this short list will help us to do so!

We hope to see many of you on Monday for the start of this year's program! Our first week we will focus on playground favorites that were the most popular in recent years. For the coming weeks after, we will have multiple new and exciting activities for the kids to try. Our goal this summer is to stay safe and, of course, have fun!