



# Welcome!

Welcome to another year in RLS Aftercare! We are excited to see familiar faces from last year, and meet our new friends as well! Here is some important information for you to help your child have a great time with us after school.

## **When Is Aftercare?**

Aftercare is available M-F from 3-6 pm on every regular school day. We do not meet on early release days or when after school activities are cancelled due to inclement weather.

## **Can I use Aftercare Only When I Need It?**

Yes! Please fill out an enrollment form and drop it off for Deb Mahan. All aftercare enrollment forms go to her first to set up billing. She will send them to me afterwards. The daily and weekly rates can be found on Sycamore or you can ask for a copy at the front desk.

## **What Should My Child Bring Each Day?**

Please bring a snack and a water bottle. Clothes appropriate for playing outside in our unpredictable NC weather is a must.

## **What Do I Need To Do?**

After school, elementary students will be picked up from the gym and taken up to the aftercare room. Middle school students will come on their own after they're released. When you come to pick up your child, you will need to initial our sign out sheet. That's it! BUT please contact me:

- If you make arrangements for someone besides a parent to pick up your child. This can be done via email.
- If you are going to be later than 6pm. All students should be picked up no later than 6pm, but if you have an emergency, don't panic, just call or text me.
- If your child is enrolled in an after school sport or activity where they will be need to leave aftercare and come back later. Many of our students have music lessons, sports, science Olympiad, etc and I need to know if they will be joining us afterward.

## What Will My Child Be Doing?

We like to keep our schedule relaxed so we can take weather, homework load, and the kids' activity needs into account, but we generally follow the same schedule daily:

**Activity Time:** We go outside every day we are able so please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather. If we can't go outside we will use the gym if it's available. This is free time for the kids to have fun, play games, and decompress from the school day. Some days we will use this time for a fun science experiment or art project outside.

**Homework Time:** Students will have the opportunity to work on homework. We will be available to help any student who needs a hand and encourage students to help each other as well. Please keep in mind I do not have access to your child's assignments and can only go by what they tell me. If your child says they have no homework or are finished, I believe them! For those who do not have homework, we have board games, puzzles, Mad Libs, coloring sheets, and many other activities they can do.

**Computer Lab:** This is a favorite for the kids! Older students who have been given logins and passwords may use the computer lab to play school approved games. We do not allow YouTube or social media during this time. For those too young, or who's parents would prefer they not use the computers, we will continue to have fun in the main room.

## Special Events

**Film Fridays:** Every Friday is a movie day! After our time outside, students will meet in the aftercare room to watch a movie. They are allowed to bring money to purchase a soda from the machine, or bring something from home. We provide popcorn to all the kids on Fridays thanks to our WONDERFUL parents who have been so kind to donate snacks for this weekly event! *Movies are animated and rated G, but we do have some animated films that are rated PG (Eg. Hotel Transylvania) If you'd like a list of the movies in our catalog, I will be happy to provide you with one.*

**Holiday Parties:** We love a good party! We will have a fun celebration around Halloween and Christmas with a seasonal movie, snacks and treats. I try to schedule these around our early release days and other classroom celebrations so I will send out details and exact dates later. For other holidays, we may do a special craft or activity.

**End of Year Celebration:** To celebrate the end of another awesome year, we will have a water fight on the playground, popsicles, and a movie in our PJs. Details to come in May!

## What Else Do I Need to Know?

As with any class there are some rules:

- No electronics please. If your child has a cell phone, they may keep it in their bag, but will not be allowed to use it except to communicate with a parent -and only with permission. If your child needs to do online research for homework, they will have access to school computers.
- Fridays are the only day we allow students to purchase sodas. Students may bring drinks from home, and water bottles can be refilled at the water fountain.
- Students are expected to follow directions, be respectful to teachers, and be courteous to our teen employees. If there is a problem, we will discipline appropriately for the student's age. Middle School students will be on the same "Three Checks" system used during school hours and will be issued a silent lunch if necessary.

- If you have any concerns or issues with aftercare staff, please bring those to me or an adult teacher. Please do not, under any circumstance, bring a grievance to one of our teenage employees. I want this to be a great year for your child and I will be happy to discuss any concerns and work with you to resolve them. If there's a problem with one of our teens, I will make sure it is handled effectively and appropriately.

Parents, we can always use snacks for Film Fridays! If you'd like to donate microwave popcorn, Goldfish Crackers, etc, you may send it with your child or drop it off at the front office anytime. Markers, dry erase markers, and hand sanitizer are also greatly appreciated if you have any extra. Our aftercare parents are the best!

This year we are adding Transitional Kindergarten. It is an exciting new program this year and some of these students will be in aftercare. As a result, we will be splitting up as needed to give our younger kids an age appropriate playground, different activities, or a quiet space. Please bear with us as we find the right balance of activities and time together and apart to keep our Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students engaged.

### **How Do I Contact You?**

You can reach me via email or my cell phone:

[aftercare@rlscary.org](mailto:aftercare@rlscary.org)

[hillaryliles@rlscary.org](mailto:hillaryliles@rlscary.org)

919-601-1068 (Please keep in mind this is my personal cell phone 😊)

I'm looking forward to seeing you all for another great year in aftercare!