

Welcome Amherst Families!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Prime Time at Crocker Farm Elementary School is an after school program that serves all children from grade levels K-6 in the Amherst and surrounding areas. The staff includes (but is not limited to) local undergraduate and graduate students, who bring an exciting, fresh and engaging energy to our program. Prime Time is operated by LSSE of the Town of Amherst: on average, enrollment fluctuates between 35-75 participants, depending on the day of the week, and includes children outside of the Crocker Farm population. We strive to create a fun, safe, explorative, supportive, and educational after school environment for our students. Prime Time welcomes children from every cultural, religious, ethnic, socio-economical, and familial background. We support children of all identities, abilities, and national origins: our afterschool employees work tirelessly to maintain a place that provides access to all of our participants. Our program follows Amherst Public School's zero tolerance policy with regards to bullying, and we aim to celebrate the various differences in each and every one of us. Prime Time believes that diversity and inclusion bring strength and understanding to a community when regarding real educational prospects.

Included in the cost of our program are many opportunities for our participants, including field trips, guest appearances and workshops. In the past, we have gone apple picking, to Mike's Corn Maze, to the Basketball Hall of Fame, ice skating, rollerblading and bowling. Prime Time has also participated in BMCP's "A Day of Play" at UMass, which is an event for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students to explore the campus, talk to students, and participate in fun motivating activities. This event serves as both an introduction to the possibilities of higher education, and a community event to bridge university students and elementary students. We have also had guest speakers about various bugs and animals, theater workshops, a science initiative group from UMass and a bike rodeo. We hope to arrange for parental

speakers, allowing a friendly space for sharing their skills, experience and knowledge with students. We provide healthy snacks for our participants, closely following EEC nutritional guidelines and regulations. On a regular basis (almost daily) we organize art and craft activities, science experiments, cooking projects, strategy and team building athletic games, along with math and literacy games and homework support. Our policy is that any distracting toys/items/gadgets be kept at home, in order to avoid distractions, or possible losing of items, or trading. LSSE After School bans any “trades” of items between participants during our program hours.

We also provide child care during vacation weeks, curriculum days, parent-teacher conference days, and early release days. During vacation weeks, we provide a themed full-day camp with included field trips and, often times, guest speakers. Our programs also have in place an “open door” policy for all communication with parents/guardians, whether it’s about any concerns about the program, a child’s progress or behavior, conflicts, passing important information, or any other reason or issue. During school hours, the program director or site coordinator are located in the LSSE office at the Middle School. Grace Marczuk, the site coordinator, can be reached at [Marczuktg@amherstma.gov](mailto:Marczuktg@amherstma.gov), or at 413-800-5390 for any questions or concerns.

We hope to see you soon, and are honored to serve this wonderful community of the Pioneer Valley!