



August, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Foster Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program.

We look forward to providing a fun, enriching and supportive environment for your child. Our after-school program will offer active play, opportunities for socialization, STEAM and creative social/emotional engaging activities.

Drop off and Pick up: Please park on Vermont Ave. Parking in the school parking lot is prohibited.

Use Entrance # B-2 (on the driveway side of the school). Press buzzer to the right of the door, and someone will let you in shortly thereafter.

Center Location: Cafeteria. Walk down hallway from entrance.

Snacks: MLEDP will provide a simple packaged afternoon snack. Attention is given to select healthy portions the children enjoy to hold them over to supertime.

Programming: A variety of active play, science, nature, art and imaginary play activities will be planned for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Respect is a vital part of how we relate to one another at MLEDP. We show this in our regard for other's property, belongings, beliefs, and physical and emotional well-being. We are anticipating a year filled with growth, friendships, discoveries, and enjoyment for all.

Our overarching theme for this year is "Choose your own Adventure". Essentially, every two weeks we will be "traveling" to a new part of the world (fictional lands included!) and creating our own choose your own adventure story. A group vote will be held every other Tuesday afternoon where students will get a chance to choose the next place they go/the next "chapter" of our story. Our staff will plan activities related to the places we are visiting! This theme will also lend itself to group discussions about making the best choices for oneself. Our hope is that this year's programming will teach MLEDP students that although they may not always be able to control their surroundings, they still always have the power to choose how they respond in any given situation. We want this theme to empower students to trust their own judgement and intuition and feel like their voices are valued, appreciated, and heard!

Please check out the Parent Handbook on the mledp.org website for additional information.

Meet the Staff:

Center Director

Ms. Chelsea Kirkpatrick is so excited to be back at Foster MLEDP for another school year! She is originally from Los Angeles, California and moved to Pittsburgh last March. She has worked in education for over ten years as an elementary educator, dance and drama teacher, and camp director. She currently lives in Brookline with her husband and 9-month-old puppy named

Spike. She is also expecting her first baby in January! When she's not working, she loves exploring Pittsburgh and finding new restaurants, parks, and museums. She is an avid reader, a board game enthusiast, and a lover of all chocolate!

Group Supervisors

Ms. Debbie Molinari has been at MLEDP for 12 years and is very happy to return to Foster Elementary.

She is an avid kayaker, hiker, gardener, and cook., She has three grown children, a dog, a turtle, and three cats. She loves being outdoors, preferably on an isolated lake, or hanging out in local museums or at the Strip District.

Mr. Cory Riddle is entering his second school year with the MLEDP and is *thrilled* to be back at Foster Elementary! He loves history, books, stories, nature and exploring the great outdoors, sports, and hands-on as well as creative activities. He has a rescue dog named Dottie and a fiancé named Melanie, and they both keep him happily busy when he is not teaching or learning.

Please reach out with any questions you may have. You can contact us through email or voicemail. Also, remember to contact us directly whenever your child will not be attending MLEDP on a given day!

Looking forward to welcoming you back- MLEDP Foster Staff

Foster MLEDP Contact Information:

Center Email: foster@mledp.org

Center Voicemail: (412) 344-6055