



# WELCOME TO THE EXTENDED DAY SCHOOL YEAR!

## WASHINGTON MLEDP PARENTS 2023-2024

### CENTER INFORMATION



WASHINGTON@MLEDP.ORG



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(MAIN OFFICE)

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August 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program at Washington Elementary. We are beyond thrilled to start another awesome school year. A few words about us at Washington: we believe in respect, kindness, having fun, and exploring new opportunities. Our activities reflect this and our rules for our group reinforce these qualities, while maintaining diverse perspectives and intellectual curiosity. Our theme for the school year will be "International Safari." We will be exploring the world through snapshots of endangered species around the globe, their biomes, and cultures that surround them. We also invite family and friends to stop in and share with us their life experiences throughout the year. Please let us know if you would like to visit, a guest speaker is always great fun! In addition, MLEDP will be holding its annual Family week open house(s) the week of March 4-8, 2023. We hope to see you there!

We follow all MLEDP Health and Safety procedures. Each afternoon we provide a simple pre-packaged snack. Respect is a vital part of how we relate to each other at MLEDP. We show this in our regard for each other's property, belongings, beliefs and physical and emotional well-being. Our expectation is that every student follows our group rules, and signs on to a pledge supporting that. We anticipate a year full of growth, friendships, discoveries, and enjoyment for all! Students should bring all materials they need to go home with them from their classroom and/or locker as they will not be permitted to return once they have arrived at extended day.

Our staff members are happy to assist children with homework or class projects, though we do not tutor. There will be an information form for you to sign in our parent area to allow us to speak with the Washington school staff for those purposes. You will sign in using the ProCare system on the iPad. You should have received an invitation to the ProCare app. If you are not on the app, please have your PIN ready. If you experience any issues, staff will be there to assist you. Please allow for a few extra moments for this process. Bring your ID with you the first few days as we get to know names and faces.

A few more operational details: Morning parking is available along Roselawn near the blacktop. Afternoon parking is available in the side lot off Washington Road and on Roselawn by the blacktop. Walk down the steps to B-4 and you will need to ring the doorbell to gain access to the program center, which is in Washington's cafeteria. Watch the parent area for valuable information, including postings about additional care on in-service days. Our weekly calendars will keep you informed of our plans. We also value a moment to chat with you about your child and their activities. Please refer to the parent handbook for any additional information. Below you will find short bios on our staff members. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to the new school year with you and your children!

### Washington Staff:

**Peter Yohe**, Center Director. Mt. Lebanon resident. Storyteller and geography whiz. Enjoys sharing his passions for the world and entertainment with the kids.

**Judy Hamilton**, Group Supervisor. Mt. Lebanon resident. Loves art, music, flags, and finding fun ways to decorate our bulletin boards.

**Holly Borz**, Group Supervisor, Building Substitute at Bethel Park High School. Long time South Hills resident. She has multiple interests in history, art, music, and science with a strong desire to learn and teach. There is a lot to learn, so let's learn together!

**Courtney Kaplan**, Assistant Group Supervisor. Mt. Lebanon resident. Loves music, cooking, reading, performance and yoga. Ready to bring a sense of home to our program.

**John Bedortha**, Assistant Group Supervisor. Mt. Lebanon Resident. Artist, Designer, Future Teacher. Loves to have fun.

Sincerely, The Staff of Washington MLEDP

Peter Yohe, Center Director:

Peter is an MLEDP veteran with many years in the program and is ready for his third run here at Washington. He's excited to bring his love of learning and knowledge to another school year. With a background in theater arts, he's got great passion for history, the arts, world cultures, and the environment. Peter fosters a curiosity and desire to discover for themselves in a way that kids are unaware learning is taking place in the midst of the fun. His great-aunt was a former fourth-grade teacher at Washington many years ago, and he is pleased to be able to continue a small family legacy of quality education at a quality school. Peter looks forward to meeting all the new kids and families, and encourages kids and families alike to freely ask any questions and introduce themselves!

Judy Hamilton, Group Supervisor:

Judy earned her Bachelor of Education from Bowling Green University in Ohio. Judy taught elementary school in Cleveland before moving to Mt. Lebanon. She and her family have been residents of Mt. Lebanon for 50 years. Judy and George are the proud parents of one daughter and three grandsons. Judy left teaching to become an assistant director of education video productions for Fortune 500 Construction Industry Companies. Upon retirement she turned her interests back to education and joined the MLEDP staff. She will be starting her 9th year at Washington Elementary.

Holly Borz, Group Supervisor:

Holly is a Carlow University graduate with a degree in History and a teaching certification in Secondary Education. She is currently going back to gain her masters degree in Special Education (K-12) at Point Park University. Born in Guatemala, adopted and raised in Bethel Park, Miss Holly has always been surrounded by educators and the desire to teach. Both of her parents are retired teachers who specialized in Math, Social Studies, English, and Special Education. Like an Olympic Torch, their passion to teach was passed onto her, as she strives to be the best teacher she can be! Outside of teaching, she has a wide range of interests. She enjoys reading a multitude of genres and is always willing for any recommendations to add to her ever growing "To Be Read" list. With a strong interest in the language and culture, she is also in the process of learning Japanese. Her goal with that is to one day achieve her N5 translator certification. Holly loves all animals and is always willing to talk to anyone about any of their "fur babies". She is a proud dog mom of a 6 year old shepherd mix named Shadow and 3 wonderful cats named Kitten, Dora, and Willow. This will be her

first full school year at MLEDP, as she worked the last few months of the '22-23 school year at Washington. This past summer was her first time at the MLEDP Summer Fun program. She looks forward to working and having fun with the kids this school year!

Courtney Kaplan, Group Supervisor:

Courtney is a Mt. Lebanon resident and mom of a second grader here at Washington Elementary. She is originally from California where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. She hopes to bring her love of performance to enhance each child's love of the arts, as well as instill confidence and creativity. Courtney's hobbies include music, cooking, reading, and yoga. She hopes to share her passions with the children as well as bring kindness, compassion, and a sense of home away from home.

John Bedortha, Assistant Group Supervisor.

John is a Mount Lebanon native with a passion for art, music, and creative expression. A graduate of Point Park University and self-taught painter, he has been a resident artist at Redfishbowl Studio in Lawrenceville for over four years. He has also worked as a teaching artist at multiple non-profits, including Chatham University's Music and Arts Day Camp. Jack-of-all-trades and master of some, his background also includes work in floral design, events, graphic design, DJing, and creative positions in three fashion shows. He brings a zealous passion and energy to all of his work, and emphasizes creative expression over technical skill. John loves to share his experience and joy with children through the arts, and will eventually seek a Master's degree in order to teach art full time.