



August 19, 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Howe Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program. The team at Howe MLEDP 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 at the entrance outside of the school cafeteria
Use Entrance C-B

Center Location: Howe Elementary Cafeteria

Snacks: MLEDP will provide a simple packaged afternoon snack. Attention is given to select healthy portions for the children to have energy for the rest of their afternoons while conversating with friends.

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.

This year we will have the quote "That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." as the main idea for what we want the year to encompass along with other social emotional skills that will be discussed. The quote (above) said by Jhumpa Lahari ties in perfectly with the book series we chose to explore throughout the 2024/2025 school year. This year we will be using the "Where is...?" chapter book series to help take us to places we may never get a chance to in our lifetime.

Health and Safety Plan: We will follow procedures in the Health and Safety Plan at mledp.org to keep everyone safe. Please review the expectations with your child to help prepare them for MLEDP. The Center Director is also more than happy to answer any questions! Please check out the Parent Handbook and the full Health and Safety Plan on the mledp.org website for additional information.

Meet the Staff:

Karlie Aschenbrenner (Center Director)

Starting as a Group Supervisor, Karlie has been an employee of MLEDP since 2021. She is a graduate of Penn State Behrend. With a bachelor's degree in early and elementary childhood education, she believes that children can do whatever they believe if they have someone who believes in them. When she is not at Extended Day you will find her being the cool aunt with her niece and nephews, adventuring to new places around Pennsylvania, or crafting. With this being her first full year as a Center Director she is welcoming all the excitement that will come with the school year!

Susan Gentile (Group Supervisor)

Susan is starting her 32nd year at MLEDP, nine have been spent at Howe Elementary. She is always excited to start a new year to rekindle old friendships and meet new friends. The best thing about the job in her opinion is watching the kids grow up. She has many hobbies, but her favorite is reading. If you ever think that she is 'lost' you will probably find her nose in a book at Mount Lebanon Library, paying close attention to books she knows the children will love. She is looking forward to the great year that is to come.

Theresa Kretzmer (Group Supervisor)

Theresa Kretzmer is a 2020 graduate of Thiel college, graduating in the field of Developmental Psychology and Neuroscience with a focus on research. She will begin her first full school year at Howe after finishing a successful Summer Fun with the 4th and 5th graders. Both she and the students are excited to see what MLEDP can be like with Ms. Theresa on the team! When joining the workforce, she chose caregiving and teaching positions due to the importance she finds in helping those around her. Her caregiving background includes caring for her eight younger siblings, all of whom have multiple disabilities. Along with this responsibility she has worked as a tutor, health home aide, and a nanny to local families. She will be all over Howe Elementary as part of the MLEDP team and a PCA for the school district.

Amy Simon (Group Supervisor)

Mrs. Simon has a BA in Child Development/Family Relations from IUP and has worked with MLEDP for over 25 years. She loves working with children and listening to their daily stories. She also enjoys watching them make friends and seeing the

bonds grow between them throughout the year. Mrs. Simon has two teenage daughters who Rock her world. My older daughter is starting her freshman year in college and my younger daughter is starting her junior year in high school.

Please reach out with any questions you may have. You can contact us through email or voicemail.

Looking forward to welcoming you back- MLEDP Howe Staff

Howe MLEDP Contact Information:

Center Email: howe@mlmdp.org

Center Voicemail: 412-344-6080