

Dear Parents/Guardians:

February 2018



Summer G.A.P. registration is here! Summer G.A.P. is available on a first come, first served basis. It is open to any child that is five by the time they attend the program and enrolled in an elementary school. The child must also live in the Brookings community or have parents that work in Brookings. It is expected that children will attend full days, however some exceptions are allowed pending Coordinator's approval. There are four sites for summer G.A.P., each with its own special personality.

The First United Methodist Church is located on the corner of 5th St and 7th Ave. This site is for pre-kindergarten children and children who have completed Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten. It is hoped that children at this location will attend here in the fall. The Methodist Church rooms are air conditioned and designed for the smaller child. This downtown location is convenient for library visits and is close to the Children's Museum playground as well as the downtown eating establishments. Children from this location will be bussed to swimming lessons at Brookings High School as well as one session of Safety Town, but other park and recreation activities will be the parent's responsibility.



The Hillcrest site is located close to Hillcrest pool and park and is open to children who have completed kindergarten through the completion of 2nd grade. The multi purpose room at Hillcrest is air conditioned, and the sheltered area outside near the school is ideal for holding activities when the weather permits. Children at this location can attend tennis lessons, soccer and swimming lessons at the aquatics center through the park and recreation program.

Medary School is on 5th Street South between the corners of Medary Ave and 7th Ave S. It is open to children who have completed kindergarten through the completion of 2nd grade. Children who attend the Medary site can participate in swimming lessons at Brookings High School, where lessons are held every day regardless of the weather. The multi purpose room is air conditioned, and the children make good use of the school playgrounds.



Camelot School will be open for older children that will be going into 4th grade and not yet attended 6th grade, and have not yet had their 13th birthday. Programs will be developmentally appropriate for this age group, and activities may take them off site more than the other locations. The children will play a major role in the planning of summer events. Due to the lower number of children that participate in swimming lessons, only one session will have transportation provided for this site.

Swim days occur every
Church sites are bussed to
are at the pool, the
parents pick them up at



week and the children attending the Camelot, Medary and Methodist the Aquatics Center. The Hillcrest site walks to the pool. Once they children spend the day swimming and playing in the park until their the Aquatics Center.

Summer G.A.P. will begin May 23rd or the first day of summer vacation for the Brookings School District. The last day of summer G.A.P. will be Friday, August 10th. There will be no G.A.P. on May 28th, July 4th, and August 13th-24th.

Summer 2018 Fees are:

	<u>Full Fees</u>	<u>Reduced Lunch Fees</u>	<u>Free Lunch Fees</u>
<u>Full Time</u>	\$120/wk	\$78/wk	\$50/wk
<u>4 days/wk</u>	\$104/wk	\$70/wk	\$43/wk
<u>3 days/wk</u>	\$87/wk	\$58/wk	\$35/wk
<u>2 days/wk</u>	\$65/wk	\$42/wk	\$27/wk
<u>1 day/wk</u>	\$38/wk	\$25/wk	\$17/wk



Families requesting a reduced fee must have on file an application for free or reduced meals. This form can be obtained from the G.A.P. office or any G.A.P. location. It is the same form used by the schools for application for free and reduced lunches, and must be completed annually.



Fees for G.A.P. can be paid monthly or bi-monthly and should be received no later than the 10th or 25th of the month to ensure that program costs are met. Fees are expected to be paid in advance. Payments can also be made using the automatic cash withdrawal (ACH) option. Families using ACH will have funds pulled from their account on the 10th and 25th of each month (or on the next work day if these dates fall on a weekend), paying for two weeks of care each time. A withdrawal schedule will be sent to families so they can plan accordingly.

Themes are used each week with structured morning activities centered on that theme. We are currently planning the themes for the summer and anticipate the children will enjoy the variety of topics and activities. All children may choose to visit the Sioux Falls Zoo in June, and there is the annual Oakwood trip and Wild Water West trip for the older children at the end of June and in July. Afternoon activities are less structured. Field trips, movie day, bike rides and swimming all occur in the hours after lunch. Because swimming is an important part of the summer routine, the children will be going to the pool two or three times a week or as weather permits (pool days are the same for all sites).

Two snacks will be served daily, one morning and one afternoon. Sack lunches will need to be brought from home, but there will be the occasional out to lunch or order in option. Milk will be provided at lunch for those who wish it. Refrigeration and a microwave are available for use (please limit microwave use to three minutes or less). Lunch will be eaten around noon, or at the conclusion of morning activities.



A monthly calendar will be available for parents so that special plans will be known in advance (bowling, library, out to lunch days, etc.). Any schedule changes will be posted on the communications board at the sites. **This needs to be checked daily!** Some activities may require an extra fee. To avoid parents repeatedly being asked for small amounts of money, a petty cash fund will be set up for each child. Deposit of cash, in small bills (nothing over \$5 please) can be done throughout the summer, and parents will be apprised of its balance periodically. As always, participation in activities that require an extra fee is optional.

Children may take part in Park and Rec activities, but it will be the responsibility of the parents to enroll their children in these designated activities. Although G.A.P. cannot provide transportation to all events, the staff will be escorting children to some swimming lessons. Hillcrest attendees can also participate in soccer and tennis. Specific session times will be suggested when the schedule is known. Staff should be informed of summer schedules so that we can remind children to attend at the appropriate time. In the past parents have arranged transportation with carpools or Brookings Area Transit Authority. Park and Rec sign up occurs in April. When the recreation schedule becomes available more information will be sent home.



If you have any questions, please give the G.A.P. office a call at 692-8066. If you are interested in having your child attend the summer G.A.P. program, complete the summer 2018 enrollment form as soon as possible. This will allow us adequate time to hire staff and organize activities. The Dates of Participation Form should be returned by April 20th, or as soon as your summer schedule is known. Your child's spot is reserved once the deposit and Participation Form are received. More information will be shared, before sign up starts, concerning the park and recreation lessons.

A summer orientation meeting will take place May (625 5th St). This is an ideal time for parents to summer program. The meeting will take place in the G.A.P. rooms on the west side of the First United Methodist Church in the education wing. Please enter using the double south doors. Families new to G.A.P. will need to complete paperwork at this time or arrange an alternative meeting.



8th at 6:00 at the First United Methodist Church ask questions and find out more about the the G.A.P. rooms on the west side of the First United Methodist Church in the education wing. Please enter using the double south doors. Families new to G.A.P. will need to complete paperwork at this time or arrange an alternative meeting.

Jan Stange, G.A.P. Coordinator