



MYRON L. POWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
225 Main Street Cedarville, NJ 08311 Phone (856) 447-4237 Fax (856) 447-3446

June 2019

Dear MLP Families,

It has been brought to my attention that some important information about our after-school care program was not given to you. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused. This memo is intended to explain why we needed to make a change to who is running the after-school program and give you the information you need about after-school care.

Over the past year, the HAWK program was not running independently from the school. Meaning, on most afternoons, Lisa DiNovi and I were faced with finding substitute coverage when staff would call-off, correcting billing issues, and handling discipline issues. Lisa and I tried many times, in multiple ways to rectify the situation through meetings, modeling, and hiring additional staff members. As many of you know, I am extremely dedicated to our school and this community. But it is an unfair expectation to expect a business administrator and the superintendent/principal of a school district to also take on the daily operations of the after-school program.

Therefore, we met with 3 different sources to determine the best way to give our families ON-SITE after-school care. The YMCA had the most comprehensive program available. Yes, it is going to cost more money. This increase to the rates would have taken place next year regardless of our partnering with the YMCA due to the change in the minimum wage law in NJ. Also, with us adding three additional staff members to HAWK this year to help rectify our issues, the program lost money.

We met with the current HAWK staff 2 weeks prior to the end of the school year. All staff were given applications from the YMCA if they wanted to apply to work for the "Y" at our MLP school location for next year. They were given fliers from the YMCA and were told to give them to all HAWK students. Unfortunately, the fliers were only given to some families and not others, as well as negative gossip being spread.

Moving forward, the YMCA flier is posted to our web page, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions sheet. We are not getting rid of our after-school program. We have contracted the YMCA to run the program, at MLP school, everyday after school until 6 PM. And now, because of the YMCA coming onboard, there are options for 3rd party funding and financial assistance. We understand our families need after-school care for our children. We are meeting that need in the same way as many other local schools such as Fairfield and Commercial Township who also have the YMCA to run their programs.

We will update our website this summer as more information is being provided by the YMCA. In the meantime, Lisa DiNovi and I have organized and created a comprehensive SUMMER CAMP for our students that begins on July 8th. ALL children will receive a day filled with a variety of activities taught by our own MLP staff members, and LUNCH will now be provided for each camper!

I hope to see you this summer for some camp time!

Sincerely,

Shelley Magan

Dr. Shelley Magan