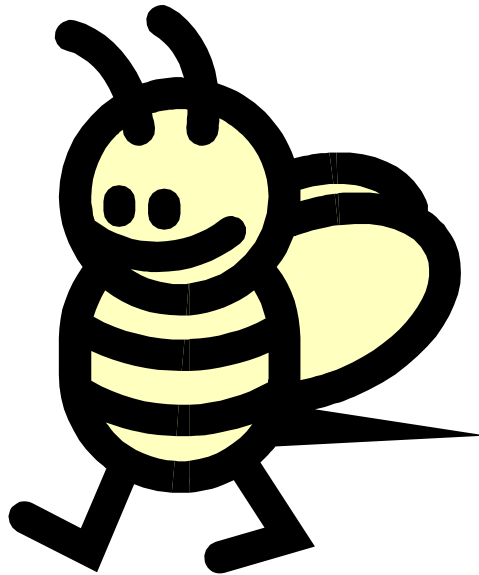




HORNETS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 2026-2027

PARENT HANDBOOK
DIRECTOR, HEATHER DEPRIEST



Manchester Memorial Elementary School
43 Lincoln Street
Manchester, MA 01944
Recreation Line: 978-526-2019
Heather's Line: 978-325-7105
Program Cell Phone: 978-727-9961

www.mbtsrec.com

STAFF

The program is a Manchester Parks and Recreation Program and is under the direction of Heather DePriest who has run the after school program since its inception in January 2007. Heather also serves as the Program Director for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The staff of the Hornets After School Program are chosen carefully and must meet the strict requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care, who is our licensing body. Qualities such as warmth, willingness to learn, patience, teamwork, flexibility, and professionalism are just some of the criteria used for hiring and evaluating the staff. We are very excited to begin another school year and look forward to your child joining us.

PHILOSOPHY

The Hornets After School Program is a full time after school program that offers a safe, supportive alternative between school and home for the children of Manchester-by-the-Sea in grades K - 5.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Manchester Parks & Recreation Department does not discriminate in providing services to children and their families on the basis of race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or marital status.

ELIGIBILITY

Children who are attending Manchester Memorial Elementary School who are in grades Kindergarten through Five are eligible to register for the Hornets after School Program. Children not attending Manchester Memorial Elementary School, but who can provide their own transportation to Memorial School can also participate in the program.

ACCEPTANCE AND HOURS

The after school program meets at the Manchester Memorial Elementary School, 42 Lincoln Street, Manchester, MA, Monday through Friday, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Vacations, Holidays, and "No School" days are the same as for the Manchester-Essex Regional School District, and our program is closed during these times.

PARENT VISITS AND IN-PUT

A parent or guardian is welcome to visit the center at any time. All suggestions are taken into consideration and parents are encouraged to add input to the program. A close rapport with parents is maintained.

REPORTS TO PARENTS

All staff members are available for parent conferences by request. The staff cooperates with local grammar schoolteachers and guidance counselors when information is requested. Progress reports will be given by the Director and or the Site Coordinator once a year on your child's all around behavior in the program. Once given, we ask that you go over with your child and sign and return to the Director.

NOTIFICATIONS

Parents are directly notified of changes, field trips, special events, communicable diseases, or anything concerning the child's program. Notices are sent home, phone calls are made, if necessary. Extreme changes in behavior patterns are noted. Our first consideration is the well being of the child.

WEATHER:

We will be going outside **EVERYDAY** unless Mother Nature will not allow us to. Please send your child with appropriate clothing every day. Snow = snow gear!!!

PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER:

On any day that school is cancelled due to inclement weather then the Hornet's after School Program is also cancelled for that day.

LATE FEE POLICY:

All little Hornets **MUST** be picked up by 6:00 p.m. **SHARP, as staff are off duty at this time.** Parents are allowed a five minute grace period. After 5 minutes the Hornets Late Fee Policy will come into effect. This policy is as follows:

Each additional minute that the child remains after 6:05 the parent will be charged a late pickup fee of \$5.00 per minute (i.e. – A parent picking up their child at 6:20 equals 15 minutes late and means \$75.00 is due.) The Hornets clock will be the determining factor as to exactly how much is owed. Any child that has more than a \$75.00 balance will not be allowed to return to the After School Program until the balance is has been paid in full.

PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS

It is very important that you and your child read the Parent Handbook Together! We will be reviewing the program policies with the kids but need your help to instill these policies. Knowledge is contagious.

PROGRAM ABSENCES

If on any day your child is going to be out sick or will be dismissed from school early and not coming to the program, we ask that you call us and let us know. You can email at depriesth@manchester.ma.us or call Heather's program cell phone at 978-325-7105 or the Parks & Recreation Department main line at 978-526-2019.

VACATION WEEKS

The Hornets after School Program does not run during the December, February or April School Vacation Weeks. However, the Parks & Recreation Department will have other programs and special events running during some of those times which have separate registrations to participate in them.



2026-2027 HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE - PROGRAM DOES NOT OPERATE:

September 7 th	Labor Day
October 12 th	Indigenous People's Day
November 11 th	Veteran's Day
November 26 th & 27 th	Thanksgiving Recess
December 24 th - January 1 st	Winter Recess
January 4 th	Return from Winter Recess
January 18 th	Martin Luther King Day
February 15 th – 19 th	Presidents Day/ Midwinter Recess
March 15 th	Teacher PD Day- No school
April 19 th – 23 rd	Patriots Day/Spring Recess
May 31 st	Memorial Day
June 17 th	Last Day of School

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Manchester Parks and Recreation offers Early Release Days at Memorial School, this is a separate program you must register for ahead of time at www.mbtsrec.com . Once the program ends at 3:00pm, the Hornets after School Program starts.

- **September 23rd**
- **October 7th**
- **October 29th**
- **November 4th**
- **November 25th**
- **December 2nd**
- **January 6th**
- **February 3rd**
- **March 3rd**
- **March 12th**
- **April 7th**
- **May 5th**
- **June 2nd**

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Appropriate behavior is always expected from all participants in recreation programs. To ensure safe and enjoyable programs and facilities for all participants, the Manchester Parks & Recreation Department has developed the following code of conduct.

- Show respect to all participants and staff.
- Refrain from using foul language and obscene behavior.
- Refrain from causing bodily harm to other participants or staff.
- Show respect for equipment, supplies, and facilities.

The Manchester Parks & Recreation Department strives to protect and respect the rights for all participants. Students must be capable of acting responsibly and safely in a less restrictive atmosphere. At Hornets we follow a 10 to 1 ratio, we are not set up to give 1 on 1 care. Reasonable accommodations and/or modifications will be made to support a child, the after-school program is not part of a student's individualized education plan (IEP). In keeping with the goals and objectives of the after-school program, the following guidelines govern student participation in the after-school program:

- The student must have the ability and willingness to participate fully in group activities.
- The student must be able to conduct themselves safely and appropriately in a group setting.
- The student can care for personal and hygiene needs.
- The student must be able to understand and follow program rules.
- The student must be able to follow at least one and two step directions without any issues.
- The student must have the ability to successfully transition from one activity to another and in and out of the program at the start and conclusion of each activity or day.
- The student can interact with peers and staff in a socially appropriate manner.
- The student is not a danger to themselves or to others
- The student does not disrupt normal activities, making it unreasonably difficult for other youth to enjoy the after-school program.
- The student does not engage in repetitive, aggressive, harmful, or disruptive behavior.

After-school program staff have the discretion to handle behavior problems as the situation arises. In all cases, maintaining the safety and security of all the students in the after-school program is most important. Student participation in the after-school program may be denied, and parents/guardians may be asked to pick up their child if these expiations are not met.

TERMINATION & SUSPENSION

At the Hornets after School Program our goal is to see everyone succeed. Our plan is to avoid suspension and termination of children in our program, it is a last resort. If a behavior is deemed to be dangerous to other children or staff, an Incident Report will be completed by a staff member. The child's parent/guardian will be notified of the issue by phone or at the time of pick-up. In most cases when a child receives a Behavior Report our staff has tried to get the child to behave or rethink their behavior in hopes the child can correct their own actions. If a staff calls home because a child has received a Behavior Report and must leave the program, we ask that you take this situation seriously and pick your child up immediately. Parents will be asked to review and sign the behavior form. One copy of the Incident Report will be sent home with the parent/guardian. A second copy of the Incident Report will be placed in the child's folder and the incident will be documented in the logbook. If three incidents are documented by Behavior Reports, the child's parent/guardian will be notified of a meeting with the Director and Site Coordinator. Three Behavior Reports lead to a suspension from the program. Parents/guardians and Hornets Staff will discuss ways to help the child. The main goal of the Hornet's staff is to work with the child and the parents/guardians to keep the child in the program. A positive approach will be used. The Manchester Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to dismiss a participant (depending on the severity of the conduct).

If a behavior management plan has been developed through school, please inform the staff so we can support the effort.

DISCIPLINE

A positive approach is emphasized and the making of moral judgments is avoided. The environment is child oriented, and there are no “do not touch” items. There is enough equipment to facilitate children’s play and learning and there is appropriate supervision.

Issues for concern center on aggressive behavior towards other children, unsafe activities and destructive use of things. Some cases the child may need a short “time out”.

On going behavior problems will be discussed with parents in informal meetings. Continual inappropriate behavior will be documented by staff, and parents will be informed of the situation. This poor behavior could earn a Behavior Report. Parents will be required to pick up their child immediately if called because of inappropriate behavior and Behavior Report has been written. Parents will be notified if the child’s behavior has warranted suspension. Suspension may result from the following behavior: fighting, physically hurting or attempting to hurt another child or staff intentionally, inability to regain control or temper, obscene or inappropriate language and or behavior, being disrespectful in an intense manner, continued lack of respect, bringing any type of weapon, leaving the program site and any situation, which the Director, within her discretion, deems inappropriate.

Three Behavior Reports in one school year may result in permanent expulsion. Once expelled, the child will not be readmitted to the program for the school year.

CHILDREN’S RECORDS

A folder with all individual required information is kept on each child. This is available at all times to the health department, the Massachusetts Dept of Early Education & Care, or the parent when necessary. Information is not given out without a parent’s permission. Folders will be kept for the required time period. A parent may add to or delete from a child’s file at any time. No fee is charged if a record is transferred or requested.

PROGRAM PLAN

Activities, which promote the child’s physical, intellectual, emotional, and social well-being, and growth, are planned. Individual choice is allowed, and the staff encourages opportunities for decision-making, choices and independent time. Some of the activities included in the program are outdoor games, indoor gym games, arts & crafts, music, seasonal activities, and other special events planned from time to time.

After School Program 5 Day Activity Schedule (2 groups)

(Grades K-2) 3:00-3:30- Check in- Cafeteria, Legos/Crafts- Snack Time

(Grades 3-5) 3:00-3:30- Check in- Kindergarten Playground/Outdoor Turf

(Grades K-2) 3:30-4:30 Outdoor Time/ Kindergarten Playground

(Grades 3-5) 3:30-4:30- Cafeteria/Snack Time- Legos/Board Games

(Grades K-2) 4:30-5:00 Gymnasium/ Gym Games

(Grades 3-5) 4:30-5:00- Front Playground

5:00-5:25- Homework Time- Quite Reading Time (Both groups come together at this time)

5:20-6:00- Free Time/ Extra Homework Time if needed

As part of the program, we will have a set time each day for the children to work on their homework. Staff will be able to assist them with any questions that they may have. Homework time is 5:00 pm – 5:25 pm Monday - Thursday. Children who complete homework in this time frame are asked to quietly read books; The Hornets after School Program provides books and simple kindergarten work sheets. It's very important that you as the parent reinforce the importance of homework time at the after-school program. We will assist children with their homework. It is your responsibility to check it for accuracy.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The after school program has excellent facilities and equipment provided by the Manchester Parks & Recreation Department and the Manchester Memorial Elementary School. The program is inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care, which is the licensing agency for this program.

SNACKS

The program will provide a healthy daily snack to all participants in the program. Please bring any dietary restrictions to our attention as soon as possible so we can accommodate your child's needs. **Please note that the Memorial Elementary School is a peanut free facility, due to a significant number of children who have severe peanut allergies.**

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

It is our responsibility as childcare providers to report any abuse or neglect performed on a child. We cannot turn our heads on a child that has been abused or neglected. Therefore, if abuse is suspected, Department of Social Services will be notified immediately. A 51A report will be filed alleging abuse or neglect. The program director will cooperate with authorities in all investigations.

REGISTRATION OF PROGRAM DAYS

Parents have the option of signing their children up for the Hornets After School Program for, 2 days per week, 3 days per week, 4 days per week or 5 days per week. The monthly tuition is based on the number of days per week that the child is registered. If a child is only being registered for 2, 3 or 4 days per week then the parent must identify which days that child will be attending. For example, if the child is coming 3 days per week they may choose to come on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Any combination of days may be used but must be selected in advance. The days that the child is registered for will remain the same for the entire month but can be changed in subsequent months as long as space is available.

If, after you begin the program, you find that you need to change which days of the week that your child attends, you must submit a request in writing to the After School Program Director and she will let you know if space is available on the new day you seek. If you are not changing the number of days per week that your child is attending, then the request will be made immediately. However, if you are adding or subtracting days, the change will not go into effect until the next month.

TERMINATION / DAYS CHILD ATTENDS

One-month (written) notice (on or before the first of the month, for the following month) is required by the parent. Fees will still be due if the parent withdraws the child before notice is given, or at any given time during the notice. One month's fees may be paid in lieu of one month's notice. Termination notice will NOT be accepted unless it's in writing.

Our childcare agreements can be terminated immediately for any of the following reasons (but not solely limited to):

- Failure to comply with the policies set forth in this book.
- Failure to comply with the payment contract.
- Destructive or hurtful behavior of child that persists even with parent cooperation in stopping the behavior.
- Non-Payment of childcare fees or late and/or recurring late payment of fees.
- Failure to show up for 5 days in a row without any communication.
- Failure to complete required forms.
- If parents knowingly send their ill child to the program.

ILLNESS POLICY

In order to care for your child and to protect all of our children, we ask for your cooperation and understanding regarding our illness policy.

A child, who shows any of the following symptoms, should be kept home until he/she is better and/or a physician has determined that they are no longer contagious.

- Temperature
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Severe Coughing
- Discharge from eyes, redness (Conjunctivitis)
- Weeping or bleeding skin lesions that are not covered with a dry dressing.
- Swollen joints
- Visibly enlarged lymph nodes (neck)
- Stiff neck

If any of these symptoms occur while your child is in the after school program, you will be contacted and arrangements will have to be made for you to pick up your child and take him/her home.

Excludable Communicable Diseases:

- Chicken Pox
- German Measles
- Mumps
- Impetigo
- Measles
- Lice

If your child has any of the above-mentioned communicable diseases, you are required to keep him/her home for the duration of the illness (or until it is no longer contagious to other children).

Chicken Pox: Minimum exclusion, one week. Your child should not return until the rash is completely dry or crusted.

Impetigo: Children can come back after taking medication for 24 hours. Sores should be kept lightly covered until they have dried up.

Conjunctivitis: Your child can come in the day after prescribed medication is applied.

IF YOU'RE CHILD STAYS HOME SICK PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL HEATHER DEPRIEST AND NOTIFY HER THAT YOUR LITTLE ONE WILL NOT BE ATTENDING HORNETS FOR THE DAY:
depriesth@manchester.ma.us 978-325-7105.

MAINTAIN STRONG HAND HYGIENE: Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, and before dismissal. Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the best practice. However, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be substituted when handwashing is not available.

The Hornets after School Program with Manchester Parks and Recreation follows all Covid 19 Guidelines set in place with DESE and Manchester Memorial School.

PAYMENTS

Listed below is the breakdown of tuition fees and when each month's payment is due. Payments are due in full on the 15th of every month for the previous month's use unless a payment plan has been setup in advance with the Parks & Recreation Director. Payments are to be made at www.mbtsrec.com

Failure to make payment on time may result in termination. There is a daily \$20.00 late payment fee for any payment not made by the due date.

You are responsible for the entire monthly payment even if your child is out sick, you are away on vacation, or they are sent home due to illness or behavior. Please note that if you have more than one child in the after school program, there is a 10% discount on the second child's monthly tuition rate.

MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Month	Five-Day	Four-Day	Three-Day	Two-Day
September 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
October 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
November 3	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
December 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
January 5	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
February 2	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
March 2	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
April 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
May 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00
June 1	\$439.00	\$374.00	\$308.00	\$231.00

The Hornets after School Program's Monthly tuition is based upon the number of weeks in the school year. Consequently, monthly tuition remains the same regardless of the number of weeks in each month. Over the course of the year, it balances out in your favor.



Heather and all our staff truly enjoy being part of this program. Working with children is our passion, and we're dedicated to making each day a positive and enriching experience for your child. We believe that clear and open communication is key. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or issues, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your child's well-being and happiness are always our top priorities. Positive and kind behaviors are always expected at the Hornets after School Program. Being a part of our program is a privilege; we have high expectations for all our friends at the program. Our goal is to help children be the best version of themselves.

We're excited for another great year and look forward to working together!

Welcome aboard! 😊

Heather DePriest & Staff

