



Rockford Area Schools
**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION**

2019-20

Parent Handbook



GALAXY KIDS

School Age Care

Galaxy Program

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction.....	2
Mission Statement	2
Open Door Policy.....	2
Registration and Enrollment Information.....	2
How to Register.....	2
Enrollment Periods.....	3
Hours of Operation.....	3
Schedule Options.....	3
Fee Schedule.....	3
Additional Fees.....	3
Financial Assistance.....	4
Invoicing/Payments.....	4
Forms.....	4
Calendar Form.....	4
Drop-In Form.....	4
Contract Change/Withdrawal Form...4	
Activity Form.....	5
Transportation Form.....	5
Communication.....	5
Reports.....	5
Orientation.....	5
Parent Feedback.....	5
Conferences.....	5
Arrivals/Departures.....	5
Sign In/Out.....	5
Unauthorized Pick-Up.....	6
Health and Safety.....	6
Nutrition Guidelines.....	6
Lunch/Breakfast Fees.....	6
Accidents/Injuries.....	6
Illness and Absence from Program.....	6
Chronic Health Conditions.....	6
Communicable Diseases.....	7
Administering Medications.....	7
Insurance.....	7
Sunscreen.....	7
Blankets/Extra Clothes.....	7
Child Guidance/Behavior Management.....	7

Behavior Expectations.....	8
Bullying.....	8
Staffing Ratios.....	8
Emergency Procedures.....	9
Lockdown Procedures-Soft.....	9
Lockdown Procedures-Hard.....	9
Evacuation Procedures.....	9
Sheltering Procedures.....	9
Severe Weather.....	9
Energy Curtailment.....	10
Programming.....	10
Transportation.....	10
Field Trips.....	10
Cell Phones/Electronic Devices.....	11
Pets/Animals in the Program.....	11
Community Partnerships.....	11
Data Privacy.....	11

Introduction

Welcome to Galaxy Kids Program! We are pleased that you have selected our program for your child. Galaxy Kids Program is a quality school-age care program offered for children in preschool through grade six. The goal of our program is to create a caring, quality, learning environment that will complement your child's needs. Galaxy Kids is an accredited program through MnAEYC-MnSACA and certified through the Department of Human Services.

Galaxy Kids Program offers your child choices for experiences in the areas of art and drama, music, sports, language arts/reading, group games, technology, community service, homework assistance, and quiet time. The children are encouraged to pursue their interests, develop confidence and independence, make new friends, and of course, have fun!

Galaxy Kids Program is sponsored by the Rockford Area School District 883 Community Education Department. Like all other district programs, we are governed by the policies and guidelines of the Board of Education.

This Parent Handbook is designed to inform you about our program procedures. Please read through the handbook carefully, paying special attention to the policies and schedules. Since the Galaxy Kids Program is housed in the Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School (REAMS) building, it is important to familiarize yourself with the REAMS handbook. It is available on the Rockford Schools website under REAMS Office.

Please feel comfortable contacting us through phone calls, emails or stop-in visits. Our goal is to work in partnership with our families in order to provide the children with a safe and caring environment.

Mission Statement

Galaxy Kids Program is committed to providing a safe, enriching learning environment for students in our community during their out of school time. We strive to work cooperatively with students' families, school-day staff, and our community to provide a quality, year-round child care program that is dedicated to continually improving our program.

We encourage self-expression and creativity, build self-esteem and confidence, and promote positive behavior, social skills, and friendships. Galaxy Kids Program is dedicated to providing an inclusive environment for students of varying abilities and needs, allowing all students to feel safe and respected. We encourage students to make choices, gain independence, and experience a variety of social and educational experiences. It is our purpose to help each child develop to the best of their individual ability in an atmosphere in which each child will become a valued member of our school community.

Open Door Policy

Parents are welcome visitors to our program. We appreciate input regarding program expectations, suggestions, ideas and comments on ways to improve our service to you and your family. You may direct suggestions, concerns, compliments and complaints to the program coordinator, either verbally or in writing. You are welcome to leave a note in the Parent Box or be sending an email. You are also welcome to direct questions, concerns, and comments to our Community Education Director.

Registration and Enrollment Information

Openings are determined on the basis of the number of adult staff-to-child ratio (1 Adult: 15 K-6 children and 1 Adult: 10 preschool children). When openings occur, parents/guardians of registered children are contacted for enrollment on the basis of: 1) the time slot indicated on the registration form, and 2) on a first-come basis for the time slot according to the date of registration.

How to Register

Parents will register using their Eleyo account. You can register for an account by visiting <https://rockford.ce.eleyo.com/>. Parents will pay a non-refundable enrollment fee at the time of registration. Your child is not registered until the fee is paid. If you are enrolling your child after the registration dates you will need to work with the supervisor to determine a start date for your child within the program. Non-payment of previous Galaxy charges will result in a delay in enrollment until all fees are paid.

Please allow a minimum of three to five business days to process enrollments.

Enrollment Periods

Galaxy Kids has 2 sessions each year, School Year and Summer. Each session requires a separate registration. The school year enrollment period is from the first day of school until the last day of school. The summer enrollment period is for 10 weeks, starting the first Monday after the school year ends and ending the last week in August.

Hours of Operation

Galaxy is open Monday through Friday, from 6:00am to 6:00pm, including during the summer session and on theme days. The program will be closed the following district holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday, Winter Break, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, the Friday after the end of the school year, week of Independence Day, and the week before the start of the new school year. Weather-related school closings are addressed in a separate section of this handbook.

Schedule Options

Consistent Schedule Option: Choose this option if you need care on the same days of the week each month. 2 days per week required to receive the regular rate. One day or less is billed at the drop-in rate.

Pick-Your-Day Schedule Option: Choose this option if your care needs vary from week to week and will not always be on the same day each week. 8 days per month are required. 7 or less days will automatically be billed at the Drop-In rate.

Drop-In Option: Choose this option if you do not consistently need care or cannot plan your care needs in advance. Drop-In days should be requested 3 days in advance.

**Field trips are scheduled for every other Friday during the summer program. On-site care isn't available on field trip days. A field trip fee will be applied to your account if you register your child for a day a field trip is scheduled. Field trip fees are listed on the permission form (\$10 or less).*

Fee Schedule

School Year Fees	
Before School 6-8:05am	\$9.00/day
Preschool Half-Day Care 8a-12:15p or 10:45a-2:55pm	\$15.00/day
Preschool School day Care 8:05-2:55p	\$25/day
After School 2:55-6pm	\$13.50/day
1 hour, Before or After School 7a-8:05am or 2:55-4:00p only	\$6.00/session
Non-School Day 6am-6pm	\$35.00
Activity Fee for field trip or on-site presenter	Cost of Activity
Summer Fees	
Full Day 6am-6pm	\$35.00/day
Weekly Rate	\$160.00/week
Activity Fee for field trip or on-site presenter	Cost of Activity
Partial Day 5.5 hrs (not available on field trip days)	\$25.00/day
Additional Fees as Needed	
Finders Fee	\$5.00
Late Payment Fee	\$25.00
Late Schedule Fee	\$25.00
Transportation Fee	\$30/season
Late Pick-Up Fee	\$5/First 10 minutes, \$1 per minute after the first 10 minutes.
Drop-In Fee	\$2.00 + cost of session
Registration Fees	
Registration (required fall and summer)	\$40.00 \$75 max/family
Early Bird Registration (required fall and summer)	\$35.00 \$65 max/family

Additional Fees

Finder's Fee: \$5.00 if your child does not come to Galaxy after school and the buses are delayed while searching.

Late Payment Fee: \$25.00 will be applied to your account if your payment is not received by the due date. If a family is unable to make payment by the due date, contact the supervisor to discuss payment arrangements. If no payment or contact is made within 7 business days of the due date, child care may be terminated. Your family will be unable to sign up for any other Community Education offerings until the account is paid in full.

Late Schedule Fee: \$25.00 will be applied to your account if your Pick Your Own schedule is not received by the due date. If you have questions on your schedule, please contact the supervisor before the date the schedule is due. If you no longer need care, please submit a Contract Change Form and request to withdraw your contract using your Eleyo account.

Late Pick-Up Fee: Galaxy Kids Program closes at 6:00pm each evening and it is important that our daily operations can conclude on time. Due to the additional expense of staff members staying late when parents arrive after the program closes you may be charged a Late Pick-Up Fee. Galaxy Kids Program will apply a fee of \$5 for the first 10 minutes a child is picked up late. After the first 10 minutes, \$1 per minute will be applied to your Parent Portal.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance may be available for qualifying families through state or county funds. Contact Wright or Hennepin County Human Services based on your county of residence. Written authorization from the county must be received by Galaxy before a child can begin care. If financial assistance is cancelled, you will be responsible for all expenses incurred. Families receiving assistance must assume responsibility for fulfilling county requirements such as providing child care schedules, submitting timely reports and making payments not covered by the assistance program in a timely manner. If co-pays and remaining care payments are not made in a timely manner, Galaxy Kids Program reserves the right to end care until your balance is paid in full. Parents participating in financial assistance programs are responsible for checking their Parent Portal and paying the remaining balance due after assistance payments are applied.

Invoicing/Payments

Care is billed monthly based on the days you have contracted for. Invoices will be available for payment on the 15th of the month prior to care. Payments are due by the 25th of the month prior to care being provided (i.e. September payment is due by August 25th). Payments can also be made by cash or check. Galaxy Kids Program is a pay ahead program. If your payment is not received by the due date, care cannot be provided.

Drop-in Care payments are due within 5 business days of care being provided.

If making a cash payment be sure to put the cash in an envelope with your family name and the amount on the front of the envelope. Please place the envelope in our locked payment box at Galaxy Kids Program.

Forms

All Galaxy Kids form that you will need are located on-site in the main Galaxy classroom and on our website. The Drop-In Care Form is NOT located on the website. This form is located on-site in our main classroom to ensure the safety of each child when additional care is scheduled. Please contact a Galaxy staff member or the Galaxy coordinator for help filling out a Drop-In Form.

Drop-In Care Form

The drop-in option is available for families who discover they are in need of care less than 8 days per month or for families who need to add days to their current schedule. There is an additional charge of \$2.00 above the regular fee. Families have the option to register as drop-in only. These days can be accommodated based on space and staff availability. The extra care fee is due within 5 business days of care being provided. Drop-in care can be requested up to 3 business days in advance using your Eleyo account. Drop-in care may not be available on certain field trip days. No refunds are available for canceling a requested drop-in date.

Contract Change/Withdrawal Form

If you need to withdraw your child from Galaxy, we require a ten business day written notice. Please give notice using the Contract Change Form, in addition to withdrawing your contract using your Eleyo account. If you withdraw your child without the

required written notice, you will be billed tuition for the rest of the required time. Re-enrollment will be dependent on space availability and cannot be allowed until any outstanding balance is paid in full. There is a \$5 Contract Change Fee for all Contract Changes.

You are responsible for all costs incurred for your contracted days, whether your child attends or not, unless we have received a contract change or withdrawal with sufficient notice.

Activity Form

If your child will be attending an activity while scheduled for care at Galaxy Kids, please fill out and return an Activity Form 10 business days prior to the activity. On this form you can indicate if you would like a Galaxy staff member to bring your child to and from the activity, date, time, and location of activity, and special instructions for the staff member.

Transportation Form

If your child will be attending an off-campus activity that requires transportation in a school approved vehicle please fill out and return a Transportation Form 10 business days prior to the activity. A \$30 per season fee is charged for transportation using school vehicles.

Communication

Galaxy Kids strives to maintain open and clear communication. We will regularly send out updates and monthly newsletters, as well as individual communication with each child's family on an as-needed basis. You will also receive monthly reminder emails when forms and payments are due.

Each family is assigned a mail slot to receive periodic communication (cubby). Children can also store completed projects and items; however parents are responsible for making sure your family's cubby is emptied each day.

Reports

If your child has an accident, incident, or serious behavioral issue you will be notified by Galaxy staff using either an Incident/Accident Report or a Behavior Reports. You will also receive a form indicating if your child isn't feeling well, along with

what actions were taken while your child was at the program.

Orientation

An orientation will be offered at the beginning of each session. An email orientation will also be sent out to all families at the beginning of each session.

Parent Feedback

We welcome feedback, both positive and negative, at all times. If you would like to share feedback you may email the coordinator, leave a note in the locked wooden box, or call and speak directly with a staff member. You may also request a conference with the coordinator regarding your child. The coordinator may also request a conference regarding your child if the need arises. You will also be asked to participate in a survey at least annually. We encourage parents to be as involved with our program as they prefer. You are invited to participate in the Community Education Advisory Board or Accreditation Stakeholder team if you would like to advise on policies and procedures regarding the program.

Galaxy Kids follows ISD 883's grievance procedures and policy # 103 regarding complaints from students, employees, parents, or other persons. You may report concerns or complaints directly to the school district or to an individual employee. The employee will advise their immediate supervisor of the complaint. For more information, please see policy #103 on the district website.

Conferences

If you would like to meet to discuss your child's progress while at Galaxy Kids Program you may request a conference with the program supervisor and classroom assistants that work with your child. Please be sure to schedule conferences in advance so staff members can prepare and additional staff members can be scheduled if need. The program coordinator may request a conference with you regarding your child if the need arises.

Arrivals/Departures

Sign-In and Sign-Out

Parents are required to sign their child(ren) in and out of the program each day. Sign your child in/out using the Galaxy Kids iPad and make sure a Galaxy

staff member knows you are taking your child. This is a safety measure. Always call Galaxy if a person designated on your information form will pick up your child. If you want someone not on your information form to pick up your child, you must let staff know this in writing. All persons not recognized by staff will be asked for photo identification. Be sure we have current phone numbers where you can be reached during your child's time at Galaxy in order for us to verify that you are aware of this change.

If a parent sends a sibling to pick up child from Galaxy, the sibling must be at least 12 years of age and must be listed on the parent information form as someone who can pick up the child. The sibling must either be known to staff or have a picture ID.

Unauthorized Pickup

If you do not want your child's other parent or grandparent to pick up said child, you must give us a copy of a court order with that information.

Health and Safety

Please keep your child's emergency information current. Registration and emergency information is kept at our program for each child.

Nutrition Guidelines

Galaxy Kids Program is committed to serving a variety of healthy and nutritious food during program hours. Students will be offered snack options each day that include a balance of fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins, while limiting foods high in fats, sodium and sugars. Students will be offered water, low or non-fat milk, and 100% fruit juice with each snack. Staff members will support children's abilities to self-regulate eating (i.e. only eating until full) as well as model healthy eating habits. Breakfast is available on school days through the district hot lunch program. Breakfast may be purchased through the REAMS office. You must contact the supervisor to set up an account if you do not have one. We will be taking the children to the lunchroom before the start of the school day. Please check the district menu and if you do not want to participate in the breakfast program for that day, you are welcome to send a breakfast snack with your

child. On non-school days a breakfast snack will be provided through the Galaxy Program.

Lunch is provided on school days through the District 883 hot lunch program. Lunch may be purchased through the REAMS office. You must contact the Galaxy supervisor to set up a lunch account if you do not have one. Milk will be available for purchase to supplement lunches brought from home.

2019-20 LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PRICES

Breakfast \$1.75

Elementary Lunch \$2.55

Middle/High Lunch \$2.80

Adult Lunch/2nd Lunch \$3.50

Milk \$.55

Lunch and Breakfast Prices subject to change as determined by Taher Food Services.

For more information regarding your child's lunch account, payment methods, and eligibility for free or reduced price meals, contact 763-477-9165. Please see District Policy 730R in the District Student/Parent Handbook.

Cold lunch is necessary to bring on all non-school days and during the summer program unless otherwise stated. When sending a bag lunch with your child/children, families are responsible for ensuring that the contents of your child's/children's lunch are appropriately packed and cooled, especially if sending a milk product or a perishable food item. We ask that you do not send pop to drink.

Afternoon snacks are included in the tuition fees and will be served each day at 3:30pm. Please check the monthly menu on our webpage to see what is being served each day. During the summer program, a breakfast snack will be served at 7:45am each day. Breakfast snacks are included in your tuition fees during the summer.

Accidents/Injuries

All adult Galaxy staff members receive training in 1st Aid and CPR. If a child has a minor injury, the attending staff person will treat the injury and inform the **parents/guardians via phone call or through our accident/injury report form.** If a serious accident should occur, the staff will contact the parent/guardian and call 911. If emergency treatment is necessary, the child will be taken to

Buffalo Emergency Care and the parent will be responsible for all medical expenses.

Illness and Absence from the Program

In case of illness a child should not attend Galaxy Kids Program if ANY of the following symptoms occur: Fever above 99 degrees, severe cold, undiagnosed rash, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, upset stomach, body aches or head lice. Please contact the coordinator if your child has any communicable diseases so that we can inform other parents that their child may have been exposed.

Chronic Health Conditions

If your child has a medical need or chronic health condition, please contact the Galaxy coordinator to schedule a meeting prior to your child beginning our program. It is important to us that we have as much information as possible to provide the highest quality care for your child.

If a child should become ill with any of the symptoms described above, Galaxy Kids Program staff will contact a parent/guardian and request that the child be picked up from the program within one hour of being contacted. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, a program staff member will get in touch with an emergency contact as listed on your Parent Portal.

Communicable Diseases

To avoid the spread of germs and for the benefit of the ill child, a child displaying any of the above symptoms will be asked to rest in a quiet area away from other children while waiting. Your child/children may not return to Galaxy Kids Program until she/he has a written doctor's notice, has not vomited or had diarrhea for 24 hours, or has been on medication for at least 24 hours.

Please Note: Because head lice is terribly contagious and extremely difficult to eradicate, Galaxy Kids Program reserves the right to check each child's head upon arrival and may refuse to care for any child who shows any evidence of lice infestation.

If you have signed up your child for a day to attend the Galaxy Kids Program and your child is ill and unable to attend we ask that you call us as soon as possible. To call your child in sick, please call the

Rockford Attendance Line at 763-477-7525 and select Option 4. You will be charged for the day. However, if we need to locate where your child is because you have not notified us, we will also charge a Finder's Fee.

Administering Medications

A form from a doctor must be presented before any prescription medications can be given to any child at Galaxy Kids Program. Medication must be in its original container, properly labeled. These medications will be kept in a locked location, away from children. Over-the counter medications may be administered if a Medication Form is on file with a parent's signature.

State of Minnesota Rule 3 Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers (Section 9503.0140, Subparagraph 7) states: "non-prescriptive medications and topical ointments must be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions." Galaxy Kids Program requires parent/guardian authorization for administration of non-prescriptive medications such as Children's Tylenol.

Insurance

Medical insurance coverage for the Galaxy Kids Program is the responsibility of the parents.

Sunscreen

Children will have the opportunity to go outside each day that weather permits. It is important that you put sunscreen on your child each day. The students are allowed to keep this in their backpacks to re-apply throughout the day. Parents are responsible for supplying sunscreen for their child during program hours. Sunscreen should be labeled with your child's name and grade. If sunscreen is not provided, your child will do alternative indoor activities in place of outdoor activities unless a waiver is signed.

Blankets/Extra Clothes

Preschool/kindergarten students should bring the following for daily use: blanket for nap time and an extra set of clothing and underwear in case of accidents. Please put the extra clothing in a storage bag labeled with the child's name and kept in his/her backpack at all times. Notices will be sent home if

extra clothing was used or if you need to take the blanket home to wash. We take precautionary measures to maintain the blankets here as well.

Galaxy Kids Program follows District Policy 516 in regards to Health and Safety in the District Parent/Student Handbook.

Child Guidance/Behavior Management

Galaxy Kids Program is dedicated to creating a positive and encouraging classroom community by implementing positive behavior guidance techniques with all children. Our program is dedicated to being inclusive of children of all abilities. Our goal is to teach children positive ways of dealing with conflict while maintaining a safe and caring environment for each child. Galaxy Staff follow the School Discipline Policy 506 from the District Student/Parent handbook.

Our program staff use developmentally appropriate language to help children make desirable choices, to become cooperative persons who are responsible for their own actions, and who respect the rights, feelings, and property of others. Staff members are committed to being positive role models, employing positive, non-threatening techniques, and consistently acknowledging and encouraging positive behaviors and attitudes.

Behavior Expectations

The basic expectations for students to remember are:

1. We respect ourselves, others and property
2. We behave in a safe and orderly way.
3. We act as responsible citizens.

Unacceptable Behaviors:

- Any violations of the District Disciplinary Policy
- Violations of listed basic expectations.

Examples of unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Physical aggression
- Drugs, alcohol, tobacco or weapons used or in possession on the premises.
- Destruction of property.
- Unsafe activities such as leaving the area without permission, behavior which endangers others, etc.

- Behaviors that disrupt activities and/or other program participants.

Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviors:

- Loss of Galaxy privileges or activities.
- Positive conflict resolution between all parties involved and program staff.
- Meeting with Galaxy staff and other children involved. Positive redirection.
- If behavior is severe, parents will be contacted to pick up their child immediately.
- Suspension from the program from 1-5 days.
- If negative behaviors are continuous, parents will meet with program staff for a conference. Behavior improvement action steps will be developed and signed by child, parent, and program staff.
- If there is no improvement using the new behavior plan, parents will be notified to discuss possible disenrollment from the program.

Galaxy Staff will notify enrollees, as well as parents, of any violations and resulting disciplinary actions. The Galaxy staff will document this notification on a behavior report and give a copy to the Galaxy supervisor.

We follow district policies 506 and 525 for all violent and severe behaviors from the District Student/Parent Handbook.

For additional information regarding students with disabilities, please see the Americans with Disabilities Act. <https://www.ada.gov/>

Program staff will meet with the Community Education Director and other appropriate district staff regarding decisions that need to be made due to severe discipline.

Bullying

Galaxy Kids Program follows ISD 883's Policy 514: Bullying Prohibition Policy. The policy defines "Bullying" as:

"Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:

1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or
2. materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or

activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. The term, “bullying,” specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.

“Cyberbullying” means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, 514-3 including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.”

If children are displaying behavior that is consistent with bullying and previous behavior interventions have not been successful, a meeting will be scheduled with the parents and program coordinator to discuss a Behavior Plan.

Staffing Ratios

We follow the ratios of staff to children recommended by the State of Minnesota, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the MN Afterschool Accreditation Program (MAAP). Independence will be encouraged by allowing children to do things for themselves, but a staff member must be present at all times. Student workers may be included in the staff to student ratios; however they will not be alone with children at any time. Additional staff are scheduled during high-risk activities, such as field trips or community outings.

Preschool: 1: 10 (maximum 20)

Kindergarten-Grade 6: 1: 15 (maximum 30)

Mixed Group: For mixed age group we staff in accordance with the youngest age group present

Emergency Procedures

Galaxy Kids Program follows all of ISD 883’s Emergency Procedures. Emergency drills are completed and documented on a scheduled basis.

Lockdown Procedures-Soft

Soft lockdown procedures will be implemented if

there is a threat outside the school building or a non-threatening emergency circumstances that people need to be kept away from.

1. Coordinator or building principal will announce “SOFT lockdown” procedures.
2. Staff members will direct all students to the nearest classroom, including those outside.
3. Custodians will lock exterior doors.
3. Staff will clear hallways, restrooms, and other rooms that cannot be secured.
4. Staff members will close all shades, lock classroom doors and control all movement inside the classroom. Students will **continue activities as planned within the classroom.**
5. Coordinator or building principal will announce “all clear” when the situation has resolved.

Lockdown Procedures-Hard

The threat/intruder is inside the building

1. Coordinator or building principal will announce “HARD lockdown” procedures.
2. Staff will immediately direct all students, staff, and visitors into the nearest classroom or secured space and **LOCK THE DOORS.**
3. Staff members will turn off lights and keep all students away from windows and doors and out of sight.
4. Staff members will not allow parents/guardians to enter the building during an active hard lockdown. Parents will be notified if a hard lockdown occurs and will be notified as soon as it is safe to pick up your children.
5. Everyone in the building will remain in place until the situation has resolved.
5. Coordinator or building principal will announce “all clear” when the situation has resolved.

Evacuation Procedures

In the event of a fire or smoke from a fire that has been detected staff members will:

1. Evacuate students to the nearest designated safe area. See map located on each classroom door.
2. Staff members will take their tracking board along with them and ensure all children have been accounted for. A designated staff member will take the master attendance sheets along and ensure all students signed into the program have been accounted for.
3. Report missing or unaccounted for students to the

coordinator right away.

4. No one may reenter the building until the building is declared safe by fire or police personnel.

Sheltering Procedures

1. Coordinator or building principal will announce when students should take shelter.
2. Staff members will move their group to the designated safe area nearest to where the group is located. Staff members will take their tracking board along with them and ensure all children have been accounted for. Staff and students will take the closest and safest route to the designated shelter.
3. Staff members will implement “drop and tuck” procedures”: Face an interior wall, drop to knees and roll forward on the balls of your feet. Tuck head down and place hands on top of head and neck.
4. Once all students are safely sheltered, staff will take attendance to ensure all students are accounted for.

Severe Weather

School Closing: Galaxy Kids Program will be CLOSED if school is closed for the day.

2-Hour Late Start: Galaxy will OPEN at the regular time. If the decision is made to close school, Galaxy will remain OPEN depending on the severity of the weather. Parents will be contacted immediately if the decision is made to close Galaxy.

Early Dismissal: If school is dismissed early, Galaxy will remain OPEN depending on the severity of the weather. Parents will be contacted immediately if the decision is made to close Galaxy.

After School Activities Cancelled: If after school activities are cancelled, Galaxy will remain OPEN regular hours depending on the severity of the weather conditions.

Invoices will be adjusted in the event these weather-related events occur and a child’s time at Galaxy is extended.

Announcements will be made on the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us, local radio and TV stations as well as phone call notice to district families.

During summer session, Galaxy Kids Program will maintain the following inclement weather policies:

If inclement weather occurs and poses a risk for children and program staff, Galaxy Kids Program may close. Program staff will contact you to inform you of the program closing. Supervision will be provided up to 2 hours after the closing announcement.

We follow District Policy 806 Crisis Management for all Emergency Situations from the District Student/Parent Handbook. This manual can be found on the Rockford Schools website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Click on District and then District Policies.

Energy Curtailment

During the summer months Rockford Area Schools participate in a program called Excel Energy Peak Control, which means we are obligated to shut down the majority of electricity in our district. The school district works with Excel to make the best use of available power during these limited power use times. To keep our kids cool and safe, we may bring them to the Community Center Field House on these days. The hours of peak control vary with each control period. These days only take place in our district on odd numbered days when the heat index is high. If it is an even numbered day, we are allowed to operate as usual unless there is an extreme emergency.

Programming

Galaxy Kids Program strives to ensure our lesson plans and curriculum supports youth development and engagement. Lesson plans and activities focus on all aspects of youth strengths and needs, including physical, social, emotional, and cognitive/academic needs. Lesson plans and Activity Planning Forms will be adjusted to reflect the needs, interests and abilities of all students. Developmental needs will be intentionally supported through daily activities, including daily lesson plans, monthly schedules, transition games, and daily informal interactions with students.

Transportation

Students will only be transported during program hours in authorized school vehicles. Field trip transportation is provided by 4.0 Transportation. Transportation can also be provided by Galaxy employees who have received training to drive a

district-owned van. Children will never be transported in staff member's personal vehicles for any reason.

Field Trips

During non-school days, especially the summer program, Galaxy Kids Program will be attending field trips. It is essential to arrive with adequate time before departures as Galaxy Kids will not delay a departure to wait for late arriving children. Please do not send additional money with your child unless informed that you may do so. On the days of field trips, no other on-site care will be available. As a reminder, children will need to bring a cold bag lunch/drink for ALL field trips. Parents/guardians are responsible for contacting program staff by 8:00 AM if a child/children are unable to attend a field trip. You will pay for the field trip if you have signed up your child on your monthly Calendar Form.

We will also take walks to the Rockford Public Library during the summer program. You will receive a monthly schedule of our visits. It is important that your child have a valid library card in order to attend. This only applies to students entering grades 1-6 as we do not take preschool and kindergarten students. To see which days your child will be attending, be sure to check our website or the on-site parent bulletin board for the schedule.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Galaxy staff members plan activities that are designed for students to be actively involved with other Galaxy kids during their time in the program. Bringing personally owned electronic devices to Galaxy is discouraged. Galaxy is not responsible for lost, broken, or stolen items of this nature. Student use of district-owned technology is closely monitored. Students must follow guidelines for appropriate use of devices such as iPads. Galaxy will not allow photos to be taken of staff or other students. Posting photos on social media will result in a conference with parents and further disciplinary action. Please see District Policy 506 and 524R in the District Student/Parent Handbook.

Pets/Animals in the Program

On occasion, Galaxy Kids Program may have working service dogs at our locations. We also may have

presentations from outside organizations involving animals. Parents/Guardians are asked to check with the supervisor and/or staff before bringing any animals into the program. You will be notified in writing if any animals will be present in the program for any reason.

Community Partnerships

Galaxy Kids strives to provide opportunities for our students to excel within their school and community. Galaxy maintains community partnerships with several business to provide additional learning experiences for our students. We currently maintain a partnership with the Rockford Public Library, and RiverWorks Food Shelf. These businesses provide opportunities for our students to be active within their community and gain an awareness of community needs and programs.

Data Privacy

This notice is being given to you to make you aware of your rights with any family information that you provide to Galaxy Kids Program. The information we request on your registration forms is important for us to be able to serve your child. Certain information, such as emergency and health information, is required by the MN Department of Human Services to have on file. All information provided to Galaxy Kids Program will be kept in confidence and made available within our program to our staff only. If your services are subsidized, fully or in part, we are required to allow access by the funders of your services to your records if requested. Please see policy 515 in the District Student/Parent Handbook.