



Dear First Camp Families,

I could not be more excited for another summer on the Blue Tornado Team as the director of First Camp. Having been in early education for the last eighteen years, I have heard time and time again how wonderful this program is and I could not feel more blessed to play a part again in your children's development and excitement this summer! Our camp will look quite similar to last year, but we will also welcome new experiences such as a weekly archery class, on-campus field trips from the Creative Discovery Museum and the Tennessee Aquarium, and a revamped "homebase" full of art supplies all sorts of building blocks and various games to help us escape that summer heat. Look below for important First Camp information and keep an eye out for a weekly newsletter detailing what is in store over the upcoming summer months!

CAMP INFORMATION

Morning Attire and Sunscreen: Please send your child to camp every day in swimsuits or shorts, a McCallie t-shirt, and a layer of sunscreen as we will head outside pretty early each morning. If you do not own a McCallie shirt yet, we will hand out one on Monday morning of every week at drop-off. Unless you request otherwise, our amazing counselors will reapply another layer of sunscreen before afternoon swim time.

Team Requests: Even though First Campers spend the majority of time together each day, we will also break into small "teams" for various activities. I will automatically place children from the same schools together, yet if there are any other friendships that we could potentially foster, please just let me know as soon as possible and I will do my best to accommodate your request!

What To Pack For Camp: (Please label everything clearly)

- Towel
- Change of clothes (or swimwear) in a plastic bag
- Water bottle
- Swim shoes (optional) - I know they aren't the most comfortable, but they will protect your child's feet from the rough bottom of the lake!
- It would be great if everything could come in a backpack of sorts to limit lost items. The draw-string sports bags are great for summer!

Lake Time!: The McCallie Lake is divided into three sections to limit access for inexperienced swimmers and to ensure the safety of all children. First Campers will only have access to the shallowest waters where they will be accompanied by their counselors and monitored by lifeguards. If your son would like to take a swimming test at the beginning of each week, a wristband will be worn to let everyone know that he can swim elsewhere under close supervision. With this band, your child can swim to the diving station in the middle of the lake, but not past. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know if you have any questions or concerns at all!

First Camp Store: We will provide a snack for campers every morning in between drop off and lunch and a popsicle right after swim time in the afternoon. There will also be a "First Camp Store" in the game room for those that might need or want something else. Everything will just be a dollar and this will help avoid any frustrations over the vending machines. We can also work on a little math, too!

Morning Drop-Off: Please drop off your child in the **front** SAC circle anytime between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. each morning. I would love it if you would please walk your son up to me on Monday morning so that we can briefly meet and touch base. Our counselors will then simply open doors Tuesday-Friday mornings to greet your children.

2:30 Pickup: If your child is not attending Tennis Star Camp, please pick him up by 2:45 in the Game Room at the back of the Sports and Activity Center.

Your son's Camp Countdown is officially on and I cannot wait to meet you and your Big Blue Camper soon! Even though we want everyone to have the absolute best time at First Camp, I want to emphasize that maintaining the SAFETY and CONFIDENCE of your children is our absolute first priority. Please do not hesitate to call, email, or text me at any time during the day if questions arise or transportation changes. Thank you ahead of time for entrusting us with your children and let's all do the best we can for your boys to have the best week(s) of camp ever!

Warmly,

Bill Greene

423-443-1507

BGreene@Mccallie.org

