



**St. Charles Park District's
Before School Care
Parent Handbook
2026-2027**



ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT • RECREATION DEPARTMENT

8 North Avenue • St. Charles, IL 60174 • Ph: 630-513-6200 • Fax: 630-513-9304 • stcparks.org

Welcome to Before the Bell, our before-school program! We're excited to have your child join us for what we know will be a fun and enriching school year.

Before the Bell is a cooperative venture between the St Charles Park District and St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 (CUSD303). The Park District is responsible for the administration of the program. D303 houses Before the Bell at Bell Graham, Davis, Ferson Creek and Munhall.

Using the transportation services from Community Unit School District 303 (CUSD303), the St. Charles Park District will provide before school care for elementary schools with sites located at Bell Graham, Davis, Ferson Creek and Munhall.

Before the Bell is designed to meet the before school needs for working parents of children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Indoor active and quiet activities are offered under the supervision of qualified, caring staff. Time and space are also provided for homework and reading.

We hope the following handbook will assist you in becoming familiar with the operations of Before the Bell. Please take a few minutes to read over the handbook and become familiar with the general information and daily procedures.

It is our goal to provide a quality before school program where participants feel safe and are fully supervised. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact us via phone or email.

Sincerely,

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REGISTRATION, PAYMENT OPTIONS AND REFUNDS

Registration

All participants must register for the Before the Bell program through the St. Charles Park District. A non-refundable deposit may be due a time of registration. Registration must be completed, including any payment information, at least 5 business days prior to your child beginning the program. Registrations are accepted based on availability. All emergency forms must be completed through ePACT prior to your child attending. Before the Bell registration is limited due to availability of space and other program needs; therefore, **Before the Bell is NOT a drop-in program.**

Program Options

Participants may choose to attend 3 or 5 days per week. If attending any less than 5 days per week, the days every week must remain consistent. Before the Bell does not accommodate switching days per week. In the event you need to increase your days per week, this option is subject to availability per day. Participants may make a *permanent* reduction in days per week. Any changes to registration, including a reduction in days, is subject to a \$10 change fee. Contact registration supervisor, Cori Hedlund at chedlund@stcparks.org, to make any registration change requests.

Withdrawals and Re-Enrollment

Participants may withdraw from the program at any point during the school year. There is no cancellation fee for program withdrawals. Re-enrollment in the Before the Bell program is subject to availability and transportation. Participants may not re-enroll within 30 days of withdrawal. A non-refundable program deposit may be required at time of re-enrollment. Any changes to registration, including reduction in days, is subject to a \$10 change fee. To make edits to your registration contact Cori Hedlund, chedlund@stcparks.org.

Payment Options

1. Pay the full activity registration fee at the time of registration.
2. Choose to have monthly payments, full activity fee divided by the number of payments (10), automatically withdrawn from your bank account. Monthly payment information is required at the time of registration. Payments will generally occur on the 1st of each month beginning in August and continuing through May.
 1. Electronic Check Payment (ECP)
Monthly payments will be automatically debited from your checking or savings account.
 2. Credit Card Authorization (CCA)
Monthly payments will be automatically charged to your credit card:
Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express.

Refund Policy

- Refunds may be granted if a valid physician's written excuse or proof of relocation out of the area is submitted. Refunds will be pro-rated based upon the remaining number of days in session.
- The Park District reserves the right to review and make the final decision on all refunds.

Refunds will not be granted for:

- Snow/inclement weather school cancellations or e-learning. If District 303 extends the school year, Before the Bell may also be extended one day.
- Days missed due to illness or misbehavior.
- District 303 determined school closures.
- Days missed due to delinquent payment.

Monthly Fees

Check online registration for the most up-to-date annual fees. If beginning the program after the start date, monthly fees will vary.

FEDERAL CHILD CARE TAX I.D. #

The St. Charles Park District has federal tax I.D. # for childcare – Baker Station.

The tax I.D. # is: 36-6006441

If you need a printed statement of the total amount you have paid for Baker Station (for tax purposes) please call 630-513-6200. We will need the name of your child and what Before the Bell site they attend

Please allow 5 working days to receive your statement

Payment FAQ

When is the first payment due?

At time of registration, you will need to inform the Park District staff if you choose to participate in the EFT program. The first program payment will be on August 1 or at time of registration if a deposit is required.

When will withdrawals from my checking account take place?

EFT program transactions are scheduled to be debited on or immediately following the 1st of each month. Debits begin in August and end in May.

Non-Sufficient Funds & Delinquent Payment

If the District receives a report of non-sufficient funds, meaning funds were not available in your account to cover the amount owed, you will be charged \$25 and your program participant will be suspended until payment is corrected. Continued non-sufficient funds will result in the requirement of payment in full for the remainder of the activity, future activities, and dismissal from the program without refund.

There will be no refunds for days missed due to delinquent payment. Registration for future programs or activities will not be allowed until passed due balance has been paid in full.

BEFORE THE BELL SITES

Bell-Graham School

Includes Bell-Graham & Wasco students

Contact: 630-774-1462

4N505 Fox Mill Boulevard, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

Located off of North Avenue (Rt. 64) three miles west of Randall Road.

Davis School

Includes Davis, Richmond & Wild Rose students

Contact: 630-675-1674

1125 South 7th Street, St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Located at 7th & Horn Streets

Ferson Creek School

Includes Ferson Creek, Corron & Anderson students

Contact: 630-327-5847

38W160 Bolcum Road, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

Located at the corner of Bolcum & Burr Roads

Munhall School

Includes Munhall & Fox Ridge Students

Contact: 630-675-1667

1400 South 13th Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Located at the east end of Ronzheimer Street

Transportation Departure Times:

Before the Bell Location	School	Bus Departure Time*
Bell Graham	Bell Graham	TBD
Bell Graham	Wasco	TBD
Davis	Davis	TBD
Davis	Richmond	TBD
Davis	Wild Rose	TBD
Ferson Creek	Ferson Creek	TBD
Ferson Creek	Anderson	TBD
Ferson Creek	Corron	TBD
Munhall	Munhall	TBD
Munhall	Fox Ridge	TBD

*** Participants must be dropped off no later than 20 minutes prior to their bus departure time, all transportation times subject to change.**

SAFETY INFORMATION

Essential Eligibility Requirements

The following factors determine whether an individual can enroll in Baker Station. In most cases, with reasonable modifications, an individual can meet the essential requirements for participation.

- **Capacity:** Must register before the program fills to capacity. A waitlist will be accepted, and staff will contact participants if an opening becomes available on a one-out-one-in basis.
- **Fee:** Must pay the appropriate registration fee or enroll in monthly payments, including the \$50 non-refundable program deposit. Repeated non-sufficient funds or delinquent payments will result in the requirement of payment in full for the remainder of the activity, future activities, and dismissal from the program without refund.
- **Age:** Must attend District 303 and be enrolled in grades K-5.
- **School:** Must complete the school day at one of the following District 303 locations: Anderson, Bell Graham, Corron, Davis, Ferson Creek, Fox Ridge, Munhall, Richmond, Wasco, Wild Rose.
- **Rules of conduct:** Both participants and parents must comply with Participant and Parent Guidelines, and Youth Participant Behavior Guidelines.
- **Safety:** Must refrain from placing themselves and/or others, including staff, at risk with aggressive or unsafe behaviors.
- **Relative Skill:** Must possess the following relative skills with or without reasonable modifications:
 - Able to use a consistent form of communication to indicate basic needs and follow simple directions.
 - Voluntarily engage in scheduled activities for a majority of the program time, including but not limited to: transitioning, downtime, group games, etc., without impeding the flow or schedule of the program.
 - Able to tolerate, function, with assistance, as a member of a larger social group (10 or more people).
 - Manage own behavior, avoiding impulsive actions such as, but not limited to: biting, spitting, scratching, hitting, kicking, and leaving program area.
 - Remain with the instructor, follow directions to the best of their ability, and refrain from disrupting the program.
 - Conduct services of a personal nature (feeding, dressing, toileting) independently.

ePACT (Emergency and Medical Information Form)

Parents/guardians must provide Medical, Emergency and Authorized Pick-up information for their child prior to your child attending Before the Bell. A link to provide your child's information will come from ePACT Network following your program enrollment. **ePACT must be completed prior to your child's first day of Before the Bell.** As part of the District's Emergency Response Plan, it is critical that all participant information is accurate and updated on an annual basis.

Participant and Parent Guidelines

To maintain a safe and enjoyable environment, preserve a healthy program experience, and encourage self-responsibility for actions; District programs have the expectation that both parents and participants will comply with each program's expectations.

Participants/Guardians in any St. Charles Park District program or event are expected to:

- Respect one another, including all participants, staff, volunteers, and patrons
- Obey all rules and policies, to maintain a respectful and safe environment for all
- Listen to and accept the decisions of employee or contractor direction without protest
- Be responsible for his/her/their actions, and demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout program duration
- Help to maintain and keep all equipment, supplies, facilities, and common areas in good condition

- Be courteous to all, and allow others in the program and facility to enjoy the activity without disruption

Our guidelines are intended to encourage participation and enjoyment by all. Participants displaying inappropriate behaviors will result in a Behavior report. Program participant guardians who display inappropriate behaviors may result in a compromise of your child's ability to participate.

Behavior and Discipline Policy

Discipline is the ongoing process of helping children develop inner controls and assume responsibility for their own actions. We accomplish this by setting and enforcing consistent and clear rules, limits, and consequences prior to and as part of any disciplinary action. Staff will use positive statements to redirect behavior. Participants will have a reasonable opportunity to resolve their own conflicts, with staff intervention as needed. All participants are expected to meet participation expectations with or without accommodations, or the support of FVSRA. A strict behavior guideline (see *Youth Participant Behavior Guidelines*) has been set to ensure the safety of staff and participants. Some behaviors may result in immediate dismissal.

Program Participant Re-entry

To promote a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all; participants who have previously withdrawn or been dismissed from any District program with multiple violations of the *Youth Participant Behavior Guidelines* will be considered for future participation on a case-by-case basis. Re-entry eligibility will require adherence to an individualized re-entry plan developed in collaboration with Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (FVSRA).

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities, Individual Education Plans (IEPS) or 504 Plans CHILDREN WITH INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEPS) OR 504 PLANS

St Charles Park District believes in the right to an excellent recreational experience for all individuals from all backgrounds and ability levels. If your child has special medical, physical, psychological, and/or emotional needs or has a 504 plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP) from the school district, please contact the program supervisor.

Lack of communication may adversely affect our ability to accommodate your child's needs. To provide the best customer service, we ask for at least two weeks' notice before the start of the program to coordinate modifications. Participation may be delayed for requests received after that time frame.

INCLUSION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

St Charles Park District works in collaboration with the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (FVSRA) to make reasonable modifications in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities. Modifications are determined in cooperation with FVSRA and may include a combination of additional training for staff, program adaptations, the use of modified equipment, and, when necessary, additional staff support.

Timeline for Services

For new participants, FVSRA aims to complete an intake assessment within one week of receiving your request for inclusion services. Once an individual has a completed intake on file, the average time to determine and coordinate modifications is two weeks. To provide the best customer service, we ask for at least two weeks' notice before the start of the program to arrange modifications. For more information on inclusion services, visit FVSRA's FAQ: <https://www.fvsra.org/inclusionfaq>

Dispensing Medication Procedures

Strict policies have been established for dispensing medication to participants. These steps must be taken if a participant is required to receive medication while in the program. This includes restrictions for cough drops, vitamins, pain relievers and over the counter or prescription drugs.

Parents/Guardians are required to complete a *Medication Dispensing Form* via ePACT for all medications to be administered to participants by park district staff or the participant themselves.

Prescription Drugs / EpiPen-Controlled by Instructor

- Parent/Guardian will provide the park district staff with the child's medication in the original container with prescription label that includes patient's name, physician's name, pharmacy name, name of medication and complete dosage information. The proper dosage for the day should be sent in the original container each day.
- Medication will be stored in a secure area and at a temperature consistent with the package instructions. If the program is held outside, staff will carry the medication with their emergency kit.

Inhaler-Controlled by child for self-administration

- Medication must be in the original container with prescription label that includes patient's name, physician's name, pharmacy name, name of medication and complete dosage information.

Accidents and Injuries

Staff are trained to treat minor cuts, bruises, and provide other simple first aid care. In the event of a serious injury (including protruding broken bones, uncontrollable bleeding, bleeding from the head, etc.), staff will call 9-1-1 to request emergency assistance. While a staff member attends to your child, another staff member will notify a parent or guardian, and if neither can be reached, an emergency contact person.

Child Abuse Reporting

Park District staff are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse. Proper care of children includes providing clean and weather appropriate clothing, proper nutrition, bathing, sleep, patience and lots of love.

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Drop-off Procedure

Drop off will begin at 7:00am. Parents will need to call their site's specific phone number and a Before the Bell staff member will meet your child at your car with the ePACT sign in sheet, then walk your child into the building. It is the parent's responsibility to escort their child to school if dropping off later than your child's bus departure time. All participants attending Before the Bell at their home school must be dropped off before 8:30am.

Transportation

Before the Bell participants registered for before care at a location different from where they attend school, will receive transportation on District 303 busses to their school. Parents will be responsible to escort their child to school should their child miss the bus departure time due to misbehavior.

School Closing/Program Cancellation

Emergency Closing Information will be distributed in these locations:

Emergencyclosingcenter.com

D303.org

Television & radio news programs

If District 303 schools are closed due to snow/inclement weather **for the complete school day** and/opts for e-learning, Before the Bell will be **CLOSED**. Please plan to make alternate arrangements for your child. A refund will not be issued for school cancellations. If District 303 extends the school year, Before the Bell will also be extended one day.

If D303 cancels classes for any reason at a specific school, Before the Bell for that location will also be cancelled. A refund will not be issued for cancelled days.

If D303 delays school opening due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, Before the Bell will be closed for the day. Parents will receive notification of modifications through ePACT. A refund will not be issued for cancelled days.

Healthy Students Only

- If a child seems to be running a fever or appears sick during program, we will request that they be picked up immediately. A child is to be fever-free and/or vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to the program.
- A child must receive appropriate treatment, depending on the condition, before returning to the program and may require a medical release from a physician before returning.
- In consideration of other children and staff, keep your child home if they show signs of illness, such as uncontrolled coughing or sneezing, runny noses (not due to allergies), diarrhea, stomach issues, or rash.

Please know we will be closely following and enforcing the sick policy guidelines. No refunds will be granted for missed days due to illness.

(NO) Reporting Absences

Absences for the Before the Bell program do not need to be reported to their sites. If your child is not present before their bus leaves it is the drop-off person's responsibility to bring their participant to school or notify your child's school and Baker Station if not planning to attend all day.

What to Bring (Daily)

Bring:

- Homework and/or reading material (book, magazine, etc., for quiet time)
- Activity from home to be used during quiet time
- A great attitude! Kids are challenged to make new friends, learn new skills, and practice positive behavior.

Do Not Bring:

- Electronics (cell phones, video games, electronic devices, etc.)

Before the Bell is not responsible for any lost, stolen or broken items.

Electronic Device Policy

For the purpose of this policy, an electronic device is defined as any mechanical or digital device capable of playing, recording, storing, or transmitting sound, images, or data. This includes, but is not

limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, tablets (e.g. iPads), iPods, handheld gaming devices, and computers.

To provide a safe, engaging, and socially interactive recreational environment, the use of electronic devices – including those issued by CUSD303 – is not allowed during program hours. Continued non-compliance will result in disciplinary action.

Snack

Before the Bell will provide a light, healthy snack option in the morning. If your child has any dietary restrictions, please indicate these in ePACT. You may choose to provide a snack that meets your child's needs or additional snack for your child if one snack is not sufficient.

Clothing/Lost and Found

Weather permitting, we will go outside on a daily basis. Please dress your child appropriately. Jackets, hats, mittens, backpacks, etc. should be clearly labeled with your child's name and school. Items left at the individual Before the Bell sites that are found and turned in will be kept there until claimed. We strongly encourage children to leave all toys and electronic games at home as they can get lost, stolen or broken. Before the Bell is not responsible for items that are lost, stolen or broken.

NO SCHOOL DAYS

If there is a scheduled No School Day, a childcare program will be held at a D303 location or Pottawatomie Community Center. District 303 does not provide transportation on scheduled No School Days. Hours of care for a scheduled "No School Day" will be 7:00am-6pm. Children need to bring a lunch and drink. Children are required to dress appropriately as they will play outside, weather permitting. All participants are expected to follow the *Youth Participant Behavior Guidelines* while in program.

No School Days follow the current District 303 school calendar. Refer to the current St. Charles Park District program brochure or website for registration codes and cost.

Holidays when child care is NOT Offered

Labor Day
Election Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Day after Christmas
New Year's Eve
New Year's Day
Memorial Day

IMPORTANT: There is a separate registration, available for No School Days, Winter Break & Spring Break Baker Station. These days are **not included** in any of the Baker Station After School program fees. Students enrolled in these breaks will attend No School Day at Davis in the gymnasium and community room, 1125 South 7th St, St. Charles, Illinois 60174.

Drop-Off Procedure for No School Days

On No School Days, parents must escort their child into Davis. No School Day will meet in the community room. Staff must confirm children are registered for the day prior to accepting the children into the program. Parents will sign-in their child by indicating the child's name and arrival time. Under no circumstances are children to be dropped off in the parking lot and allowed to sign-in without their parent present. At the end of the day, parents must come into the building and sign-out their child.

Youth Participant Behavior Guidelines



YOUTH PARTICIPANT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

In order to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment, Park District staff enforces a strict discipline policy designed to preserve a healthy program experience for all concerned. Behaviors which endanger the safety and security of the child or others may result in skipped steps and/or suspension from the program. The following infractions will constitute the use of the discipline procedures listed below. **This list is not inclusive of all possible offenses:**

1. Harming one's self, such as, but not limited to:
 - Leaving designated grounds and/or group without permission
 - Physical damage to self
 - Possession, use or transfer of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products including matches and lighters
2. Harming others, such as, but not limited to:
 - Fighting and/or other aggressive behavior
 - Throwing objects
 - Possession or use of weapons: knives, glass, sharp objects, etc.
 - Hitting or kicking others
 - Verbal abuse and/or profanity
 - Endangering the safety of others
 - Exposure or touching of private areas to others
3. Damage of property:
Note: Parent/guardian will be responsible for ANY damage caused by his/her participant.
 - Vandalism
 - Tantrums resulting in damage to property
 - Breaking, damaging or destroying property
 - Theft - taking any item that does not belong to the child

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES: If your child has trouble following the participant behavior guidelines, the following discipline procedures will take effect. There will be NO REFUNDS for missed days due to disciplinary infractions.

If a child displays an offensive behavior, the following steps will be taken:

- Removing the child from the incident or activity, talk with them about the situation, behavior redirection and choices made. "Time out" or removing child from activity for a cool down time followed by discussion with staff to be sure the child understands the unacceptable behavior and what would be a better choice.
- Parents will be informed of a situation if the problem is repeated, involves disrespect and/or violence or anger.

If offensive behavior continues after the time-out, the following will occur:

- **1st Offense:** A Participant Behavior Report will be written and must be acknowledged and signed by the parent/guardian and the participant at pick-up time.
- **2nd Offense:** The participant will be suspended for one day. The suspension will be in effect the first day following the offense. The supervisor will notify the parent/guardian.
- **3rd Offense:** The participant will be suspended for three days. The suspension will be in effect the first day following the offense. The supervisor will notify the parent/guardian and schedule a conference to discuss behavior management and whether the child can meet participant expectations with or without accommodations.
- **4th Offense:** The participant will be suspended for one week. The suspension will be in effect the first day following the offense. The supervisor will notify the parent/guardian and schedule a conference to discuss behavior management and whether the child can meet participant expectations with or without accommodations.
- **5th Offense:** The participant will be dismissed from the remainder of the program. The supervisor will notify the parent/guardian.

IMPORTANT: Depending on the situation and the degree of the offense, a program participant may be temporarily or permanently dismissed from the program following any offense. The supervisor will notify the parent/guardian and schedule a conference to discuss behavior.



PARTICIPANT BEHAVIOR REPORT

Date: _____ Program: _____

Participant: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Time of Infraction: _____ am/pm Location of Infraction: _____

Behavior Infraction:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Harming Self <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Physical Outburst▪ Emotional Outburst▪ Elopement Behavior | ☐ Harming Others <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Physical Outburst (hitting, spitting, etc.)▪ Emotional/Verbal Outburst▪ Exposure or touching of others▪ Endangering Others |
| ☐ Destruction or Misuse of Property <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vandalism▪ Damage▪ Theft | ☐ Other <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Non-compliance▪ _____ |

Description of Incident:

Action Taken: Verbal Warning _____

10-Minute Time Out _____

Behavior Report _____

Offense # (circle): 1 2 3 4 5

Suspension _____ # of days

Parent/Guardian: Please sign this document to indicate an understanding of the events that have occurred.

Staff Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notes: _____