



May 9, 2007

Dear Parents,

School's Out has been providing quality programs for out-of-school time here in Hamilton and Wenham for over 20 years. As youth enter middle school, they still need supervision and programs, but they need a different model than the after school care that they received from K through 5th grade. We would like to propose a program that will meet the needs of kids for activities and fun and meet the needs of parents for safety and supervision. We have contacted the Miles River Middle School administration and will be working with them and the school district to locate our program here at MRMS.

Research and our own experience tell us that students making the transition from elementary school to middle school need good role models and healthy activities during the after school hours. Kids who go home alone from 3 to 6 pm are at risk for many unhealthy behaviors, whereas their peers who get involved in after school clubs, sports, activities and programs like ours, have a layer of "protection" from unhealthy behaviors.

The model that we envision will have kids check-in immediately after school with our staff and then sign-out for activities, sports or academic help. Kids will return to the staffed location after activities, or they can choose to stay there for the duration. Staff will focus on helping kids get their homework done, but there will also be time for a snack, some card games, outdoor time, and time to be together with their peers. On early release Wednesdays, we will plan some off-site activities with input from the kids. Some of our ideas are for a service project, perhaps at the local ACORD Food Pantry or at some of the many local nursing homes. We have a cohort of kids going into middle school from our after school program this year, and we are excited to pilot this program with these particular kids, who know each other well and who have been with us for years. We invite you to consider having your middle school student join us!

Our programs are licensed by the State and our staff are CPR and First Aid certified. We hire staff who are experienced, but also "cool", so they appeal to middle school youth. The projected cost of the program will be \$15/day for M,T,Th and F, and \$20 for the early-release Wednesdays.

Please send back the attached form if you are interested in this program and we will get back to you ASAP with the final details. Call Margo at 468-1114 with any questions or concerns that you have.

Sincerely yours,

Margo W. Druschel
Executive Director



MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM INTEREST FORM

Child's Name _____

Street _____ Town _____ ZIP _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____ Child's grade _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

Name _____

Street _____ Town _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the days you anticipate that you will need for the 2007- 2008 school year:

After School Program: 2:30 to 6 MRMS

___ Monday

___ Tuesday

___ Wednesday (1:45 to 6 pm)

___ Thursday

___ Friday

**We will be in touch as soon as we have a program in place, most likely by the end of June.
Thank you for your interest.**