



Emerson
SCHOOL

Before & After School Program Guide

2026-2027

*In order for your child to participate in any of our programs, we must
receive a signed copy of this guide with your signature(s).*

Contact Information



After School Cell Phone

CALL OR TEXT

734-660-5108



Carly Meloche

*Co-Director of Auxiliary and
Summer Programs*

cmeloche@emerson-school.org



Catherine Audette

*Co-Director of Auxiliary and
Summer Programs*

caudette@emerson-school.org

COMMUNICATION NOTES

You can reach us by email and text **ONLY** from 10:00am until 2:30pm Monday through Friday.

You can reach us by call and/or text from 2:45pm until 6:00pm Monday through Friday.

If you have a question or concern regarding our programs during school day hours, please text or email us.

If you have a question or concern which does not relate to our programs during school day hours, please contact Emerson's Front Desk at **(734) 665-5662**.

Hours of Operation

Before School Child Care (Morning Care): 7:30am-8:15am

- Parents may not drop off students at school prior to 7:30am
- All students arriving before 8:15am will be signed into Morning Care

After School Child Care (After Care): 2:45pm-6:00pm

- All students not picked up curbside by 3:30pm will be signed in to the After School Program
- **After School Child Care ends promptly at 6:00pm**, regardless of evening school events and their start times (ex. Art/Music Nights, Band/Orchestra concerts, Science Fair, etc.)

Program Philosophy

Emerson's After School Program is designed to offer safe, rewarding experiences for students during after school hours. The program offers children an opportunity to socialize with peers, learn new skills, and enhance their school experience. Emerson School is committed to providing a safe environment full of caring and dedicated staff, exciting and diverse enrichment opportunities, and fun, age-appropriate indoor and outdoor activities for all children.

Enrollment

Both morning care and aftercare are available to all students currently enrolled at Emerson School on a drop-in basis. We do not require advance registration. Morning care and aftercare will officially begin on Tuesday, September 1st 2026.

Pick-Up

If you are an authorized parent or guardian picking up a child, here are the times during which you may do so curbside:

- **2:45-3:00pm** - Y5-K Curbside Pick-Up
- **3:00pm** - Any Y5-K students who are not picked up curbside by 3:00pm will be checked into aftercare.
- **3:00-3:30pm** - 1st-3rd Grade Curbside Pick-Up
- **3:15-3:30pm** - 4th-8th Grade Curbside Pick-Up
- **3:30pm** - Any 1st-8th grade students who are not picked up curbside will be checked into aftercare.



For families with children in different grades with different dismissal times, Y5-3rd grade students will not be charged for child care while they wait in aftercare momentarily for their 4th-8th grade sibling(s) to be released.

If you arrive to pick up a student anytime after 3:30 PM, you must park and enter the building via the Belonging Center doors. Then, you may sign your child out of aftercare at the front of the library.

Security

Our program uses a digital attendance system called Procare to keep track of all parent contact information, authorized pick-ups, and student attendance. Each person authorized to pick up a student will have their own designated four digit PIN that they will enter into one of our iPads at the front of the library during pick-up time. It is important that all students who are signed into aftercare exit the building with their authorized parent or guardian via the Belonging Center doors during after school hours for visibility and safety purposes.

Morning Care Program (Y5-8)

Any student who arrives on campus prior to 8:00am must sign in to morning care for attendance and supervision purposes. Grade divisions should follow these morning care arrival protocols:

- **Y5-3rd Grade**→Enter through the Belonging Center doors and sign in with our staff at the front of the library.
- **4th-8th Grade**→Enter through the front main doors and sign in with our staff in the Commons.

Morning care is run and supervised by both Emerson teachers and After School Program staff members. All students signed into morning care have the option of reading, coloring, doing homework, spending time with friends, or playing in the gym. Morning care is charged at the rate of \$11.50/day billed at the end of each month. Students who fall into the following categories **are not** charged for morning care:

- **4th-8th grade students**
- **Siblings of 4th-8th grade students**
- **Students who are children of faculty and staff members**
- **Students who ride the bus to school in the morning**

All students will be dismissed from morning care to their lockers/classrooms at their grade respective start time (8:00 AM for 4th-8th graders and 8:15 AM for Young Fives-3rd graders).

After School Program (Y5-3rd Grade)

Any Young Fives-3rd grade student who is not picked up curbside by 3:30 PM will be signed into the After School Program at their grade division's designated location during their respective dismissal times:

- **Y5-K**→Sign in at the aftercare desk in the front of the library at 2:45 PM.
- **1st-3rd Grade**→Sign in with an ASP staff member on the steps of the library at 3:00 PM.

Students will be directed to these specific locations by their teachers and After School Program staff members. Upon signing in, students will be given a pre-packaged snack which they will eat outside. All grades spend a lot of time outside on the playground (weather permitting). When Young Fives-3rd grade students come indoors, they will have games, crafts, activities, and ample opportunity for creative and self-directed play available to them in the library. In addition, After School Program staff members may lead various planned activities each week. These are optional but open to any students interested in participating.

After School Program (4th-5th Grade)

Any 4th-5th grade student who is not picked up curbside by 3:30 PM must check into the After School Program in the Commons right outside of the Arts & Innovation Center (AIC). Upon signing in, 4th-5th grade students will be given a pre-packaged snack which they will eat outside. They will spend lots of time outside on the playground (weather permitting). When 4th-5th grade students come indoors, they will have games, crafts, activities, and ample opportunity for creative and self-directed play available to them in the Commons. In addition, After School Program staff members may lead various planned activities each week. These are optional but open to any students interested in participating.

After School Program (6th-8th Grade)

Any 6th-8th grade student who is not picked up curbside by 3:30 PM must check into the After School Program directly outside Room 204. Upon signing in, students can head outside to the playground to get a pre-packaged snack which they will eat outside. After finishing their snack, 6th-8th grade students have three options for how they may spend their time in the After School Program:

1. **Spend Time Outdoors:** Students may spend time outside on the playground getting some fresh air and exercise.
2. **Work on Homework:** Students may do homework or study in our designated Homework Room (Room 208). Our Homework Room will be supervised by one of our staff members and is meant to be a quiet work space.
3. **Relax and Socialize:** Students may spend time in Room 204. This room is also supervised by one of our staff members and is meant to be a space where students can socialize with friends, play games, work on a craft, or engage in any activity that allows them to unwind after a long school day.

Off-Limits Locations

Students who are checked into the After School Program are not permitted to wander the hallways, lounge in the Commons areas, or spend time anywhere else on campus without direct adult supervision.

Computers

4th-8th grade students are allowed to use their computers for homework only in the designated quiet space (Room 208). If a student is seen using their computer for anything other than homework during after school hours, their computer will be confiscated until they sign out of the After School Program for the day.

Cellphones and Smartwatches

In alignment with school day policies, smartwatches are not allowed in the After School Program. 6th-8th grade students may use their cellphones to communicate with a parent or guardian until 3:30 PM. If a student is seen with a cellphone past 3:30 PM, it will be confiscated until they are signed out of the After School Program for the day.

After School Sports

When a 4th-8th grade student has an after school sport or activity that meets at 3:30 PM or earlier, they should not sign into the After School Program. Once they are dismissed at 3:15 PM, they may use that time to prepare for their practice or game. When a 4th-8th grade student has an after school sport that meets anytime after 3:30 PM, they should sign into the After School Program immediately following their dismissal at 3:15 PM. If a 4th-8th grade student is not picked up by a parent or guardian at the end of their after school sport or activity, they must sign into the After School Program and be charged for that time spent in our program.

Dates of Operation

Morning care and aftercare will begin on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026. Morning care is offered every regularly scheduled school day, and aftercare is offered according to the school calendar. In addition, extended child care opportunities will be offered on certain days (detailed below). Child care will not be available on days that school is closed due to weather conditions. Below is a comprehensive list of dates when we will be offering additional child care opportunities as well as dates when we will not be offering child care:

- **Sept 1-3** Y5-1st Grade Half Days (child care available 12-6pm)
- **Sept 4** No School (no child care)
- **Sept 7** Labor Day (no child care)
- **Sept 1-3; 8-11** Y5-K Half-Days (child care available 12-6pm)
- **Sept 25** Early Release Day (noon dismissal; child care available 12-6pm)
- **Oct 14** Parent Teacher Conferences (child care available 2:45pm-7:45pm)
- **Oct 15** Parent Teacher Conferences (child care available 8am-6pm)
- **Oct 16** No School (no child care)
- **Oct 30** Early Release Day (child care available 12-6pm)
- **Nov 6** No School (no child care)
- **Nov 24** Early Release Day (no aftercare)
- **Nov 25-27** Thanksgiving Break (no child care)
- **Nov 30** No School (no child care)
- **Dec 18** Early Release Day (noon dismissal; no aftercare)
- **Dec 21-Jan. 1** Winter Break (no child care)
- **Jan 8** On Campus Faculty & Staff Event (no aftercare)
- **Jan 18** No School (no child care)
- **Jan 29** Early Release Day (child care available 12pm-6pm)
- **Feb 11-12** Mid-Winter Break (no child care)
- **Feb 15** Mid-Winter Break (no child care)
- **Feb 26** Early Release Day (child care available 12pm-6pm)
- **Mar 11** March Madness (no aftercare)
- **Mar 24** Parent Teacher Conferences (child care available 2:45pm-7:45pm)
- **Mar 25** Parent Teacher Conferences (child care available 8am-6pm)
- **Mar 26** No School (no child care)

- **Mar 29-Apr 2** Spring Break (no child care)
- **April 16** Early Release Day (child care available 12-3); no aftercare
- **May 28** No School (no child care)
- **May 31** Memorial Day (no child care)
- **Jun 3** Last Day of School (noon dismissal); no aftercare

Fees

After School Program fees are based on the total amount of time that your child spends in our program each day. Total charges for the entire month are billed to your account at the end of each month.

TOTAL TIME:	CHARGE:
30 min	\$12.00
1 hour	\$18.50
1 hour 30 min	\$22.00
2 hours	\$26.00
2 hours 30 min	\$30.00
3 hours	\$33.00



If a parent or guardian is on campus volunteering (i.e. coaching a sport, leading a group, working with ESPO), they will not be charged for childcare. However, we ask that you notify us of these instances in advance via email so that we do not charge your account by mistake. Parent-teacher conferences or scheduled meetings are not included in this exception.

For Parent-Teacher Conferences Full Day Childcare: We charge our hourly rate if your child is with us anytime from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM (i.e. one hour of child care would total to \$18.50, two hours of child care would total to \$37, and so on). If a student stays with us during aftercare hours (3:00 PM-6:00 PM) during a full day of child care, aftercare rates apply and are tacked onto your existing total.

For Early Release Days: We use our aftercare rates across the entire three hours of extended care (12:00 PM-3:00 PM). For example, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM totals to \$18.50, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM totals to \$26.00, and 12:00 PM-3:00 PM is \$33.00. If a student stays with us during aftercare hours (3:00 PM-6:00 PM) during an early release day, aftercare rates apply and are tacked onto your existing total.

Late Policy/Fee

The After School Program ends promptly at 6:00 PM. A strict late fee of \$5.00/minute will be charged for each student that is picked up after 6:00 PM. Late pick-ups are very difficult on your child and on the After School Program staff. If you are going to be late, please call or text (734) 660-5108 so we can reassure your child that you are on your way. No exceptions to the late policy will be made.

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities

- Any student not picked up curbside by their grade's respective dismissal time will be signed into the After School Program, must be signed out when picked up, and will be charged accordingly.
- Parents/caregivers should familiarize their child and their child's teacher with their After School Program schedule.
- Parents/caregivers must enter the building via the Belonging Center doors to pick their child up in person.
- Parents/caregivers are required to provide the Front Office with authorization via email for anyone that will pick up their child from school at any time of the day, including during the After School Program. This authorization must include the individual's name, address listed on their driver's license, and phone number.

Parent/Caregiver Rights

- Parents/caregivers have the right to visit the After School Program during operating hours at any time.
- Parents/caregivers have the right to request detailed reports – verbal or written – of their child's behavior in the After School Program.
- Parents/caregivers have the right to speak to the After School Program Co-Directors about the program's activities and planned events.
- Parents/caregivers have the right to request conferences with one or both of the After School Program Co-Directors throughout the school year regarding their child's specific needs in the program.

Snacks

Children in the After School Program receive a pre-packaged snack upon signing into the After School Program. Snacks we typically offer include pretzels, popcorn, baked chips, fruit snacks, and more. Our weekly snack schedule will be posted on our After School Program bulletin board in the Belonging Center at the beginning of each week. We also offer apples and clementines as a supplementary snack option. If your child has a food allergy, they will be provided with an alternative snack. However, replacements will not be provided to picky eaters. Students are always welcome to bring a snack from home. All snacks will be consumed outside before playing.

Movies

Movies may be shown occasionally, typically reserved for rainy days. All movies shown are age appropriate and usually have a 'G' or family rating. 'PG' films may be shown with the approval of the After School Program Co-Directors.

Discipline

Children are expected to show respect for individuals and property, exhibit self-control, and display good judgment while in the After School Program. If necessary, staff members will intervene in situations where children are not behaving appropriately. Using positive discipline measures, staff and children will work together to resolve conflicts and establish acceptable guidelines for behavior. When conflicts occur, children are encouraged to express their feelings as they relate to the issue, making it possible – in most cases – to come to a resolution through open discussion. If problematic behavior continues, parents will be notified and might be asked to meet with one or both Co-Directors for assistance in working with the child. In accordance with Emerson School and State of Michigan guidelines, physical punishment, humiliation, or intimidation will not be tolerated in the After School Program.

Restorative Action in Middle School After Care

In 6th-8th grade aftercare, we follow a similar Restorative Action Plan to the one that is implemented throughout the school day. Please note that these policies are aligned with our cell phone and smartwatch policies during the school day. This consistency is very important for our adolescent learners.

If a student displays poor behavior in 6th-8th grade aftercare, these are the action steps that will be followed:

1. **Verbal Warning:** The student will receive a warning that their behavior is unacceptable. They will also receive a warning that the next step is a location change.
2. **Short-Term Location Change:** If the student repeats this behavior, they will be sent to the library and directly supervised by the Director and Assistant Director of the After School Program for the remainder of their time in aftercare. In the library, they may work quietly on schoolwork, read, or draw until their parent or guardian arrives for pick-up.
3. **Restorative Conversation & Student Reflection Process:** If the student's behavior continues beyond Step 2, the Director and Assistant Director will schedule a meeting with the student to have a restorative conversation about their behavior and develop a plan going forward. The Assistant Head of School and the Director of Student Life may also be present for this meeting depending on the circumstances of the situation. Following this conversation, the student will be guided to complete the [Student Reflection Form](#). This will then be shared with their Advisor/HRT. Parents will be called and/or emailed with a summary of both the student's behavior and the restorative process. These details will also be documented in FACTS.
4. **Final Step:** If a pattern of behavior continues beyond Step 3, we will discuss future options with the student, their parents, the Assistant Head of School, and the Director of Student Life. This may include a temporary suspension from aftercare.

Licensing

The Emerson After School Program is fully licensed by the State of Michigan Department of Child Day Care Licensing and follows all rules and guidelines that the state establishes. Many of the program's policies are designed to meet these guidelines. We maintain a notebook with all of the licensing inspection reports, special investigation reports, and correction action plans from November 2009 to the present. This notebook is available during all normal business hours of the program. Licensing inspection and special investigation reports from the past two years are available on the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing website at www.michigan.gov/michildcare.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The After School Program strives to keep all students healthy and safe. We comply with all and any current guidelines set forth by the Washtenaw County Health Department and meet or exceed the recommendations laid out by the MI Safe Schools Roadmap. We also mirror any policies and protocols implemented by Emerson School at large. If a child has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, has loose stool, vomiting, or is generally unwell and unable to participate in aftercare, please do not send your child to the After School Program. If a child has a fever or vomits in the After School Program, we will contact parents immediately for pick up. If a child is not feeling well or is injured while in our care, we will also contact parents to alert them of the situation. In addition to daily custodial cleaning services, the After School Program uses disinfecting wipes each day to clean the surfaces we use most often (i.e. tables, chairs, handrails) and alerts the custodial staff of anything needing additional attention. For more details, please refer to the Emerson School 2024-2025 Health & Safety Policies Procedures bulletin sent to all families at the start of the school year.

Enrichment Classes

The After School Program offers a wide variety of after school enrichment classes, such as chess, art, dance, podcasting, cooking and baking, and much more. Enrichment class offerings are divided into three separate six-week long sessions. Classes will vary according to each session. Pre-registration is required for all classes. Class brochures are sent to all families via email a couple of weeks before each session begins. Class registration will open to all families a few days after the brochure is sent out. Class fees will be billed to your account at the end of each session. Here are the dates for our enrichment classes this school year:



- **Fall Session: September 14th – October 30th (no classes 9/25, Oct 12-16, and 10/30)**
- **Winter Session: January 11th – February 26th (no classes 1/18, 1/29, 2/8-2/12, 2/15, and 2/26)**
- **Spring Session: April 12th-May 21st**

Music Lessons

Private after school music lessons are available for many instruments throughout the school year. Music lessons run in two sessions (September-December and January-May). Lessons are billed at the end of each session for the entire session at the rate of \$40 per 30 minute lesson. If you are interested in music lessons, please contact Carly Meloche, Co-Director of Summer and Auxiliary Programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I register my child for morning care and/or aftercare?

A: You don't! Our programs operate on a drop-in basis. You will never need to sign up ahead of time for morning care nor aftercare in order for your child to participate. The only time you will need to register ahead of time is when we offer extended child care opportunities on Early Release Days or during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We will send information to all families via email about how to register for these events throughout the school year. If there has been a change of plans with your family's after school pick-up plan and you would feel more comfortable letting them know during the school day, simply contact Emerson's Front Desk via phone or their teacher via email to request that they pass along the message to your child.

Q: Can I call or text the After School Program phone to have my child sent curbside for pick-up?

A: Unfortunately, we cannot allow students to walk to their car on their own during after school hours. In alignment with Emerson School's commitment to security and safety, parents and guardians must physically enter the building to pick up their child from aftercare. When you arrive on campus during after school hours, please park and enter the building through the Belonging Center doors. Then, you may sign your child out at the After School Program desk in the front of the library by entering your designated PIN into one of our iPads. Once your child is officially signed out, we will call for your child on our walkie-talkie system. Our staff will make sure that they connect with you at the front of the library.

Q: How do I sign my child up for music lessons and/or enrichment classes?

A: To sign your child up for music lessons or to get more information about them, contact Carly Meloche via email at cmeloche@emerson-school.org. To sign your child up for enrichment classes or to get more information about them, contact Catherine Audette via email at caudette@emerson-school.org.

Q: If I am on campus volunteering or coaching, is my child charged for aftercare?

A: No. Students will not be charged for time spent in the After School Program while their parent or guardian is on campus volunteering for the school in some way. However, we ask that you notify us of these instances in advance via email so that we do not charge your account by mistake. Parent-teacher conferences or scheduled meetings are not included in this exception.

Q: If my child is in an after school activity (music lesson, enrichment class, sport, etc), are they still signed into aftercare?

A: Yes. Any student participating in an after school activity on campus that is directly organized by the After School Program (an enrichment class or a music lesson) must stay signed into our digital attendance system, Procure, during this time. However, these students will not be charged for aftercare while they are actively in their class or lesson.

If a student is participating in an after school activity that is not directly organized by the After School Program (sports, Science Olympiad, Robotics, theatre, etc), they do not need to remain signed into our digital attendance system, Procure, during their respective activity. This is because they are under the supervision of their coach, instructor, director, or other authorized adult separate from the After School Program during this time.

We keep meticulous records of which students are involved in after school activities and cross reference this information with our attendance list on a daily basis. This is to ensure that your account is not incorrectly charged for time your child spends on campus during after school hours. If your child spends time in aftercare before or after their after school activity exceeding thirty minutes, your account will be charged for this time.

Q: Does my 6th-8th grader need to sign into morning care and/or aftercare?

A: Yes. If your 6th-8th grade student is staying after school past their dismissal time for any reason (waiting for their ride, a sports practice, a play rehearsal, etc), they must sign into the After School Program and will be charged for the time they spend in our program. While we understand that many of our older students require less direct supervision than our younger students do, they still require baseline supervision. This is a safety concern as it is crucial for us to keep track of which students are on campus during after school hours.