

B.A.S.E.

Possible transition to administration
by Park District of La Grange

Objective

Our objective will be to enhance the existing program by:

- providing additional support and supervision for BASE staff
- implementing administrative processes that make BASE more convenient for parents
- providing students a safe and friendly atmosphere that balances homework with fun
- provide a smooth transition for parents, students and staff.

Background

- BASE is financially sound
- PDLG does not expect to subsidize BASE or make a significant profit on its administration
- BASE parents are pleased with the individuals that staff the BASE program and are generally pleased with the way it is operated

Our research found 33 park districts in the suburban Chicago area that operate programs, some within park district facilities and others utilizing school district facilities

- Western Springs
- Hinsdale
- Oakbrook Terrace
- Pleasantdale
- Lisle
- Westmont
- Oak Park
- Addison
- Carol Stream
- St Charles
- Palatine
- Bartlett
- Frankfort
- Bolingbrook
- New Lenox
- Olympia Fields
- Woodridge
- Orland Park
- Oak Lawn

Benefits for the Kids

- Continued emphasis on homework completion.
- Improved perception of BASE with the opportunity for "fun" with the Park District.
- Wider variety of healthy foods due to the ability of PDLG to utilize its Recreation Center as a storage and distribution facility.
- Increased diversity of enrichment opportunities with exposure to PDLG programs for those who wish to participate.
- Increased attention to safety and security.
- Transition planning will minimize disruption to kids.

Benefits to the Parents

- Longer hours. We will open ½ hour earlier and close ½ hour later.
- Convenience. Our online resources include scheduling, payments, news, etc. We will also add convenient payment options for the benefit of parents.
- Ability to provide a wider variety of healthy foods due to the ability of PDLG to utilize its Recreation Center as a storage and distribution facility.
- Added flexibility and peace of mind for parents in providing reliable care/camps for kids on school holidays at the recreation center, if sufficient demand exists (additional fee will apply).

Benefits to Parents (cont.)

- Enhances the BASE opportunity for kids with special needs. We can provide the services of SEASPAR for individuals that are in need of assistance.
- Park District operations involve safety and security. PDLG operates under a rigorous safety risk management program. All staff members are required to attend yearly training. Certified staff members keep up with their educational requirements (2.0 CEU's).
- The Park District is a member of the South Suburban Risk Management Group, which oversees safety risk procedures. All members go through monthly, quarterly and yearly training schedules.
- The best resources of both agencies will be tapped and utilized to the highest possible degree.

Benefits to BASE Staff

- BASE coordinator will receive an enhanced level of support and administration for scheduling, billing, communication, capital replacement, and day-to-day issues.
- Assistance in program planning, purchasing, storage, and oversight.
- NO staffing changes are anticipated.
- Enhanced training, including safety training.
- PDLG has many years experience in recreation and education
- BASE will be a separate department of the PDLG

Benefits to Parents (cont.)

- Automatic check withdrawal option.
- Continued awareness of child-care tax importance (because of similar status as a taxing agency).
- PDLG can utilize its connections to acquire food grants
- We can offer storage space for many items.
- PDLG offers the administrative staff to help promote, support and secure the operation of this program for years to come.

What will change?

- **BASE staff will receive the full support of PDLG administration staff**
- **Staff will undergo training for safety, risk management, school privacy and other important topics.**
- **Parents will be asked for feedback via survey on a regular basis so that we may be proactive about continuous improvement.**
- **Payments will be made through the PDLG**
 - NEW: Credit card payment option.**
 - NEW: Dedicated web site, with online calendar of events and menus.**
 - NEW: Online enrollment and payment capabilities.**
 - NEW: Multiple payment plan choices**

What will NOT change?

- Same friendly staff! ALL BASE staff will be hired by PDLG, and staff will become PDLG employees
- Same locations! Programs will NOT move to the Rec Center
- Same resource sharing with the School District!
- Same price! The PDLG has agreed to hold prices for 2 years and will reevaluate pricing thereafter based on the recognized need to provide services at a low cost.

Why Change?

- The PDLG and School District 102 share a commitment to the children of our community and endeavor to provide high quality services for their physical, social, emotional and academic development.
- Research indicates that a key reason programs like this work well in these communities is the strong commitment to the children and the program quality.
- Two collaborating taxing agencies will become better aligned with their core competencies, as well as complimenting each other's mission.
- The best resources of both agencies will be tapped and utilized to the highest possible degree.
- Collaborative use of tax dollars and resulting benefits to the community.