



GCDC Summer Curriculum June 24th - August 16th

The theme for the GCDC 2024 Summer Program will be ALL THINGS STEAM. Our summer investigations will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. We have selected this theme to align with the interest specifically identified by our students enrolled in the 23-24 SY here at GCDC. Through these themes, children will learn, and have fun exploring.

- Having an intentionally focused STEAM camp is one of the most effective ways for children to learn about science and technology, while developing skills in literacy, math, the arts, and technology.
- It supports children's wonderful ability to become totally engaged in topics and activities of their interest that challenges and extends their thinking to higher levels.
- Our themes are meaningful to children because they provide opportunities to gain information through direct observation and hands-on experimentation that promotes creativity, and the ability to generate new ideas that can be linked to their existing knowledge.

Are you or do you know a Geologist, Astronomer, Paleontologist, Earth Scientist, Geologist, Geoscientist, Architect, Physicist, Radiologist, Environmentalist, or Entomologist? Well, we need your help. Please sign up to come and talk to the children about what you do or conduct a fun science experiment.



GCDC Summer STEAM Camp 2024

June 24th- June 28th Mission 1: STEM into Bridges

Children will kick off the summer by using a variety of materials to build a variety of bridges! We will be drawing designs and implementing the engineering process to learn more about bridges. We will explore forces and create paper bridges, popsicle stick bridges, and even bridges made of recycled materials. After we create the bridges, the testing begins!

July 1st- July 5th Mission 2: Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles Galore!

Children will have an exciting time putting their curiosity to work to explore bubbles. We will explore what are bubbles, how are they formed, and what chemical solution makes the best bubbles. We will use different materials to design and create bubble wands.

July 8th - July 12th Mission 3: Fizz, Pop, Bang!

What's a summer without a bang! Children will mix ingredients to make a chemical reaction. They will make Alka Seltzer Rockets blast off high into the sky! We will explore viscosity in an experiment with Pop-Rocks!

July 15th -July 19th Mission 4: STEAM into Nature: Weaving, Patterns, and More!

The nature weave teaches children mindfulness and relaxation. Nature, with its abundance of colors, textures, and seasonal variety, is the best inspiration for art. Children love to pick, collect, and display the treasures they find outdoors. The children will turn these collections into beautiful and unique natural tapestries with a simple weaving activity or art project.

July 22nd- July 26th Mission 5: Dinosaurs Roar! Roar!

Children will learn about all the different types of dinosaurs that once roamed the world. They will identify the many different characteristics of dinosaurs. We will make dinosaur fossils and set up an excavating adventure in the sandbox. **We will venture to the Maryland Science Center!**

July 29th -Aug 16th Mission 6-8: Olympic Games 2024 Race to the Finish Line!

For the next few weeks, we will highlight games in the Olympics!! We will practice long jumps, bike races, and obstacle courses too! GCDC will take this time to allow the children to create games and rules, and choose the materials used in their innovative games, to bring them to life. We will emphasize how to be a team player, good sportsmanship, and trying our best to get to that finish line.

Curriculum Break --- Week of August 19th – August 23rd ---Curriculum Break

Hot Summer Days



When a code **RED** has been issued: Outdoor playtime will be limited to 10-to-15-minute increments. On Wednesday & Thursday, Sprinkle Time activities will be permitted at the regularly scheduled time.

When a code **ORANGE** has been issued: Outdoor play will be limited to 25-minute increments. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, Sprinkle Time activities will be permitted at the regularly scheduled time.

When a code **YELLOW** has been issued: Outdoor play will be limited to 40-minute increments. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, Sprinkle Time activities will be permitted at the regularly scheduled time.

When a code **GREEN** has been issued: Outdoor play will remain at the regular scheduled playtime of 1 hour.

GCDC monitors the weather/air quality each day. Ms. Lakshini Wijeweera is the Lead on this to ensure that everyone is aware and can make the best decision possible to keep our little ones safe.



Sprinkle Time Fun



Sprinkle time is such an enjoyable time for the staff and children! Sprinkle time is during outdoor play from **10:00 am-11:00 am** or **11:00 am-12:00 pm** every **Wednesday & Thursday**. While outside, children enjoy playing fun water games, running through the sprinklers, and exploring in the water tables. Our staff is encouraged to participate with the children to promote social interaction, group participation and to keep the children's body temperature cool. The following materials are required every **Wednesday & Thursday**:

- Swimsuit/Swim trunks/Towel
- Water Shoes - for safety reasons, please only bring enclosed water shoes and avoid open-toed sandals (children without water shoes will not be able to participate during sprinkle time and will be provided with an alternative activity)
- Mini spray bottle (with child's name labeled on the bottle)
- Sunscreen (You must have a completed sunscreen form on file if you want the teacher to reapply sunscreen)
- A plastic bag for wet clothes (*some classrooms may participate in additional Sprinkle Days during the week. Your classroom teacher will keep you informed.)

Parents must apply sunscreen before school each day. If your child needs a second application during the day, a sunscreen application form is required. Everything should be labeled with the child's first and last name. Teachers will store all sunscreen in their teacher's cabinet in each classroom. Office of Child Care regulations does not permit us to store sunscreen in the children's cubbies. Please be mindful of your choice of sunscreen as some require additional wait time before direct sun exposure. Teachers apply the sunscreen and head directly outdoors.