



## **2023 VACATION ARTS PROGRAM:** **PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK**

Welcome to camp at Arlington Center for the Arts. We look forward to meeting you and your child this summer! Please check that the sessions and dates on your confirmation letter are correct and retain the information for tax purposes.

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## I. Welcome, Philosophy & Values:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Arlington Center for the Arts. ACA is looking forward to working with you and your family in our Vacation Arts Program! It is our hope that you find it a fun, creative and enriching experience for your child.

Arlington Center for the Arts is a community arts center devoted to the mission of “transforming lives and building community through the arts.” In our Vacation Arts programs, we provide a fun and creative arts-based vacation program for children in grades 1 through grade 6. We offer a mix of performing and visual arts, as well as outdoor activities that encourage creative thinking, socialization, experimentation, and positive self-expression.

**Please note:** ACA is offering the following programs during the February/ April and Summer 2023 camp season:

- **Vacation Arts Camp:** Full day camp for grades 1-6, featuring visual art, music, drama and outdoor games each day, all based on a weekly theme.
- **Art Academy Program:** Full day camp for grades 3-6, featuring visual arts activities and outdoor play time each day
- **Teen Studio:** Half day art experience for grades 7-12. Ceramics programs (AM and PM sessions available).

For detailed information about each program and sample schedules, please visit our website at [www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org).

### **Non-Discrimination:**

Here at ACA, we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. As such, we do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender identity, national origin, cultural heritage, political beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, or marital status.

### **Accessibility and Modifications:**

At ACA, we are more than happy to offer modifications and accommodations to anyone who needs them. Please speak with our Education and Programs Director, Cat Beaudoin ([cat@acarts.org](mailto:cat@acarts.org)), to discuss specific accommodations for your child.

### **Camp Inclusivity:**

ACA utilizes the following practices in regards to respecting and recognizing gender identities:

- Using requested gender pronouns
- Using requested names and/or nicknames
- Allowing for reasonable accommodations including comfortable access to restrooms and/or other organization facilities

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Education and Programs Director, Cat Beaudoin at [cat@acarts.org](mailto:cat@acarts.org).

**Camp License Information:**

The Vacation Arts Camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and be licensed by the Arlington Board of Health. If you have any concerns, please contact Tom Formicola, Executive Director, at [tom@acarts.org](mailto:tom@acarts.org).

## **II. Registration Policies**

### **Refunds & Cancellations:**

Our camp cancellation policy is as follows:

*A \$50 processing fee applies to all cancellations*

*\*four weeks or more before camp week begins: full refund less cancellation fee*

*\*two weeks or more before camp week begins: 50% refund less cancellation fee*

*\*less than two weeks before camp begins: no refund*

ACA reserves the right to cancel programs, change times or locations, and substitute instructors. If a program is cancelled due to low enrollment, you will be notified by email and will receive a full refund.

Please note: ACA will offer a program transfer (as availability allows) or a prorated credit for the amount of missed camp programming for any child who has tested positive for COVID-19 (note: the positive test must have been taken within 5 days of the start of the camp program). Please contact us at [info@acarts.org](mailto:info@acarts.org) if this is the case so that our staff can assist you.

### **Unregistered, No Show, Late or Absent Policy:**

A parent or guardian must be present at check in each day, although Teen Studio campers may be given permission by a parent/guardian to sign themselves in and out each day. If a Teen Studio camper arrives on Monday without a parent or guardian, it will be assumed that they have parental permission to sign themselves in and out.

If a parent or guardian knows that the camper will be late or absent from the program for any period, they must contact the ACA Office as soon as possible at **(781)-648-6220** or the St Paul's location at **(339) 368-4453**. Further on in this handbook, you will find more information regarding our late attendance policy for our 2023 summer arts camps.

### **Scholarships:**

ACA offers a limited number of 50% - 100% scholarships each year. For more information, please visit <https://www.acarts.org/scholarships>

### **III. Preparing for your Week at Camp**

#### **Camp Forms/Emergency & Medical Info:**

ACA must have completed and returned First Aid and Emergency Contact forms, as well as a copy of the child's latest immunization record, before any child may attend our camp programs. Forms may be submitted through our website (<https://www.acarts.org/camp-policies>) or emailed to our camp staff at [campmanager@acarts.org](mailto:campmanager@acarts.org).

**PLEASE NOTE:** ACA camp registrations are considered incomplete until your camper's First Aid & Emergency Contact Paperwork has been submitted. Please complete this paperwork ASAP to reserve your camper's spot. Campers will not be permitted to join camp without these required forms on file.

#### **Camper Medication:**

If your child will require a prescription medication at camp (including epi-pens and inhalers), please be sure to submit an Authorization to Administer Medication form. Depending on the medication, your request may need to be approved by ACA's Health Care Supervisor before camp begins. Link to form :

[https://www.acarts.org/files/ugd/58e3cd\\_0687de8e056c46758a92a77684fadaac.pdf](https://www.acarts.org/files/ugd/58e3cd_0687de8e056c46758a92a77684fadaac.pdf)

If a camper is planning to attend multiple weeks of camp throughout a given season, one set of forms may be submitted before the start of the first program for which the child is enrolled. If any of the information denoted on these forms changes before the start of a subsequent program, we will require an updated set of camp forms.

#### **Use and Distribution of Digital Photos of Children:**

The ACA occasionally uses digital images in our publicity and to allow parents/guardians to see what happens during the program day. Parents/guardians may opt out of all photos of their children by indicating their decision to opt-out in the appropriate section of their child's submitted **Emergency & First Aid Paperwork** (which can be found at: <https://www.acarts.org/camp-policies>). Names are never attached to photos unless authorized by the parent(s) to do so.

#### **Friend Requests and Group Assignments:**

Campers at Vacation Arts Camp are split into groups. The groups are decided based on the child's birthday, so that children are always grouped with their peers of a similar age. Groups will consist of no more than 10 campers, each with a designated counselor. If we receive more registrations for younger or older kids, the ages of the groups will reflect that, in order to make sure that we have balanced numbers of campers in each group.

Most of our campers attend Vacation Arts Camp with no known friends from school or other activities. We take very seriously our role to foster friendships, ease nerves and be inclusive of all our campers. From the first morning of camp until the end of the summer, your child will meet new campers each week and develop lasting friendships.

Should you decide to make a friend request, please keep in mind that it's easier for us to accommodate if both campers are the same age. It can also be challenging to accommodate friend requests for more than two campers, due to the size of our groups. We don't want to create a situation where a child isn't in the appropriate group, due to a friend request.

We try to accommodate each camper's friend request; however, our main concern is to provide a safe and well-balanced group experience for everyone. ACA does its best to honor one friend request per camper, and *both campers must request each other*. **Friend requests for one's child must be made at least two weeks before the start of camp.** ***Please note:** We cannot accommodate friend requests made on the first day of camp.*

### **What to Bring & Wear:**

ACA **requires** that students attending our 2023 February/April and summer camps arrive each day with the following:

- **A backpack or bag** with the student's name clearly labeled on the front. All other personal items should be placed in the camper's bag/backpack.
- **An extra set of clothing**, in case their original clothing gets torn, dirty or soiled. This applies to children of all ages.

#### Lunch, Snack & Water Bottle

**\*\* Please bring a nut-free lunch and TWO snacks each day. \*\***

- We have a no-nut policy due to the prevalence of allergies. **Please do not pack items with peanuts or tree nuts including almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, nutella or peanut butter candy.**
- Bring a water bottle with your child's name on it every day. Please be sure to fill the water bottle each morning before arriving to camp.
- We do not have refrigerators or microwaves available for camper lunches.
- We are not able to provide food for campers!

*In the event that your child forgot his/her lunch or snack, we will contact you.*

#### Clothing

- Make sure your child is wearing clothes that you don't mind getting messy.
- Please pack an extra set of clothes, just in case of spills, weather or other accidents.
- No flip-flops, please.
- We will go outside every day, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly.
- Please, no electronics, special toys, or "good" clothing that may get lost or damaged.

#### What NOT to bring:

- Electronic devices must be left in the campers' backpacks
- **Collectable cards**
- Personal sports equipment
- Flammables, knives or weapons of any kind (including toy weapons)
- Tobacco or drugs of any kind
- Peanuts or tree nuts – we are a nut free camp!

### **Program Structure and Sample Schedule:**

Campers in our Vacation Arts Camp will be in groups of 10 children, and will rotate through 6 classes each day with their assigned counselor. The classes will include 2-D art, 3-D art, multimedia art, 2 performing arts/movement classes and a games/choice period. Lunch and

recess will occur for 3 groups at a time (3 will be at lunch while the other 3 are at recess, and they will switch)

### Sample Schedules:

On the next page, you can find sample schedules for both our Vacation Arts Camp and Art Academy programs. Please note: groups in each schedule are ordered from left-to-right, in ascending age order. As such:

- For **Vacation Arts Camp**, Red Group represents our *youngest campers* and Purple Group represents our *oldest campers*.
- For **Art Academy**, Magenta group represents the *younger campers* and Indigo Group represents the *oldest group of campers*.
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### Vacation Arts Camp Sample Schedule:

	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Purple	notes
9:00 - 9:15 am	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Drop Off for campers/ teacher prep time	Teachers set up classrooms, counselors & floats help with drop off
9:15 - 9:20 am (5 min)	Transition to next classroom						
9:20-10:05 am (45 min)	Drama (Fellowship Hall)	2D Visual Art	Music	3D Visual Art	Mixed Media Visual Art	Movement/Games	First 5-10 minutes are mindfulness/zen time
10:05 - 10:10 am (5 min)	Transition to next classroom						
10:10-10:55 am (45 min)	2D Visual Art (Counselor Break 10:15-10:45)	Music (Counselor Break 10:15-10:45)	3D Visual Art (Counselor Break 10:15-10:45)	Mixed Media Visual Art (Counselor Break 10:45-11:15pm)	Movement/Games (Counselor Break 10:45-11:15pm)	Drama (Counselor Break 10:45-11:15pm)	interns in classrooms
10:55- 11:00 am (5 min)	Clean up for Snack						Teachers oversee, counselors support
11:00-11:10am (10 min)	Snack Breaks in Current Classrooms						Teachers oversee, counselors support
11:10 -11:15 am (5 min)	Clean up Snack and Transition to Next Classroom						Teachers oversee, counselors support
11:15-12:00pm (45 min)	Music	3D Visual Art	Mixed Media Visual Art	Movement/Games	Drama	2D Visual Art	
12:00 - 12:05 pm (5 min)	Transition to lunch/recess						
12:05-12:30 pm (25min)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	Recess (Teacher Break)	Recess (Teacher Break)	Recess (Teacher Break)	interns supporting lunch/ recess
12:30 - 12:35 pm (5 min)	Transition to lunch/recess						
12:35-1:00 pm (25 min)	Recess (Teacher Break)	Recess (Teacher Break)	Recess (Teacher Break)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	Lunch (Teacher Break)	interns supporting lunch/ recess
1:00 - 1:05 pm (5 min)	Transition to next classroom						
1:05-1:50 pm (45 min)	3D Visual Art	Mixed Media Visual Art	Movement/Games	Drama (Counselor Break 1:15-1:45pm)	2D Visual Art (Counselor Break 1:15-1:45pm)	Music (Counselor Break 1:15-1:45pm)	
1:50 - 1:55 pm (5 min)	Transition to next classroom						
1:55-2:45 pm (50 min)	Mixed Media Visual Art (Counselor Break 2:00 - 2:30)	Movement/Games (Counselor Break 2:00 - 2:30)	Drama (Counselor Break 2:00 - 2:30)	2D Visual Art	Music	3D Visual Art	interns in classrooms
2:45 - 2:50 pm (5 min)	Clean up for Snack						Teachers oversee, counselors support
2:50-3:00 pm (10 min)	Snack Breaks in Current Classrooms						Teachers oversee, counselors support
3:00 - 3:05 pm (5 min)	Clean up Snack and Transition to Next Classroom						Teachers oversee, counselors support
3:05-3:50 pm (45 min)	Movement/Games	Drama	2D Visual Art	Music	3D Visual Art	Mixed Media Visual Art	
3:50 - 4:00 pm (10 min)	Transition to dismissal						
4:00 - 4:15 pm	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup	Teachers clean classrooms, counselors and floats help with pick up
* Teachers are responsible for facilitating clean up time, lining up campers, & dismissing campers in time to make it to their next class on time							
* Counselors will facilitate activities during transition times for pick up/drop off							

## Art Academy Schedule:

	Magenta	Emerald	Indigo	
9:00 - 9:15 am	Drop Off			
9:15 - 9:30 am	Main Classroom	Classroom 2	Classroom 3	
9:30 - 9:45 am				
9:45 - 10:00 am	Counselor Break Starts			
10:00 - 10:15 am	Camper Snack Break (counselor break)			Float 1 covers all AM breaks
10:15 - 10:30 am		Counselor Break Starts		
10:30-10:45 am		Camper Snack Break (counselor break)		
10:45 - 11:00 am			Counselor Break Starts	
11:00 - 11:15 am			Camper Snack Break (counselor break)	
11:15 - 11:30 am				
11:30 - 11:45am				
11:45 - 12:00 pm				
12:00 - 1:00 pm (1 hour)	Lunch/Recess (Teacher Break)			Counselors, Floats, and Admin Cover & bring campers to and from classrooms
1:00 - 1:15 pm	Main Classroom	Classroom 2	Classroom 3	
1:15 - 1:30 pm				
1:30 - 1:45 pm				
1:45 - 2:00 pm				
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Counselor Break Starts			
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Camper Snack Break (counselor break)			Float 2 covers all PM breaks
2:30 - 2:45 pm		Counselor Break Starts		
2:45 - 3:00 pm		Camper Snack Break (counselor break)		
3:00 - 3:15 pm			Counselor Break Starts	
3:15 - 3:30 pm			Camper Snack Break (counselor break)	
3:30 - 3:45 pm				
3:45 - 4:00 pm				
4:00 - 4:15pm	Pick up			

\*Floating Counselors will cover counselor breaks (30 min each) as well as lunch/recess and pickup/dropoff

## Helping your child to understand our camp policies and procedures:

We understand that some parents/guardians, as well as campers, may have reservations about attending in-person programming this summer. At ACA, our highest priority this summer is to provide creative arts opportunities for kids in a way that is safe and aims to minimize risk. Please visit our website at <https://www.acarts.org/covid-19-updates> for the most up-to-date information about our COVID policies

Although ACA will do our best to offer reasonable accommodations and behavioral, as well as social/emotional, support for campers, the health and safety of all of our campers and staff is of the highest priority. If you have concerns about your child's ability to comfortably engage in ACA's camp safety policies and procedures this year, please make sure to contact our staff at [info@acarts.org](mailto:info@acarts.org) and a member of our camp team will connect with you as soon as they're able.



## **IV. Arrival and Departure at ACA**

### **Program Hours:**

Full day camp runs from **9:00 am to 4:15 pm**. Please read on below for more details about our drop-off and pick-up processes for this summer camp season.

### **Morning Drop-Off Information:**

Morning drop-off is between **9:00 am and 9:15 am**. **Please note:** parents/guardians will not be permitted to enter our camp facilities during the 2023 summer camp season. This is to ensure the safety of our campers, as well as our staff.

#### **For Vacation Arts Camp:**

Please arrive to the front entrance of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (929 Concord Turnpike, Arlington, MA 02476), where a staff member will get your camper(s) checked in. Campers will then be escorted to Fellowship Hall, where they will engage in games and icebreaker activities until the start of class at 9:15

**Note:** Should a student arrive early, the student and parent/guardian will be asked to remain outside until drop-off begins. **Please note:** we will not be allowing any campers to enter the building before 9:00 am except for Extended Day students (which requires pre-registration). We will not have staff ready to check your camper in until 9:00 am at the earliest.

#### **For Art Academy & Teen Studio:**

Please arrive at the entrance to our facilities at the Arlington Center for the Arts (20 Academy St, Arlington, MA, 02476). A staff member will get your camper(s) checked in and then escort them inside once the drop-off period has concluded.

**Please note:** If you need to arrive after the morning drop-off period (from 9:00 - 9:15 am), it is important that you contact the ACA office at **781-648-6220** (Art Academy and Teen studios) or **339-368-4453** (Vacation Arts Camp). Please let our camp staff know that you will be arriving -- only an ACA staff member will be able to allow your child into the building.

**We understand that the first day of camp can be tough for some campers.** However, please note that, while it is our hope to create a welcoming and encouraging environment for all, the safety of our staff and campers this spring is of highest priority. As such, parents/guardians will not be permitted to enter the camp facility with their child. If you have any concerns about your child's ability to successfully transition into the camp day, we ask that you please touch base with our camp staff, prior to the start of the program for which your child is enrolled, by emailing us at [camp@acarts.org](mailto:camp@acarts.org). While we will do our best to accommodate the particular needs of our campers, parents may be asked to wait outside the camp facility with their child (should they be experiencing difficulty during drop-off) until all other campers have been signed-in.

**Teen Studio campers take note:** If Teen Studio campers arrive without an accompanying adult, we will assume that they have the authority to sign out at the end of the day.

### **Medication Drop-Off:**

All medications (i.e. Epipens, inhalers, etc) should be dropped off with the ACA staff member checking you in and picked up with a staff member upon pick-up on Friday (or the equivalent last day of child's attendance). Please place medications in a clear, zip locked bag, labeled with the child's last name *and any special instructions*.

- **NOTE:** all medications must be in their original packaging with a valid expiration date.
- **IMPORTANT:** If your child will require a prescription medication at camp (including epipens and inhalers), please be sure to submit an Authorization to Administer Medication form. Depending on the medication, your request may need to be approved by ACA's Health Care Supervisor before camp begins. Link to form:  
[https://www.acarts.org/files/ugd/58e3cd\\_0687de8e056c46758a92a77684fadaac.pdf](https://www.acarts.org/files/ugd/58e3cd_0687de8e056c46758a92a77684fadaac.pdf)

### **Pick-up Information:**

Pick up is from **4:00 - 4:15 pm each day**. Parents/guardians will be directed to a line by the front entrance of the building.

- ACA staff will cross-check our Authorized Pick-Up list and the ID of the person picking up
- Once confirmed, ACA staff will mark the sign-out sheet and report any relevant information from the day

**Please Note: No camper will be released to a person who is not designated as an "authorized pick up" on your emergency contact form. This includes family members.** Please understand that this protocol is in place to ensure the safety of your child. You can ask for ACA staff to modify the list at drop off as needed, email or call the camp office.

- Should someone arrive to pick up your child, who is not an authorized pick-up, we will ask them to wait while we contact you or your other emergency contacts.

If you know you will be picking up early or late in the afternoon, please call the ACA office at **(781)-648-6220 ( Art Academy and Teen Studios) or 339-368-4453 ( Vacation Arts Camp)**. A late fee of \$20 per child will be incurred for each 10 minutes past 4:15 pm for families not enrolled in Extended Day.

### **Extended Day:**

#### **Extended Day Option for Vacation Arts Camp ONLY:**

- **Early Bird:** Monday- Friday, 8:00 AM - Start of Camp  
\$125/week
- **Afternoon:** Monday- Thursday, End of camp- 5:30 PM  
\$100/ week

## **V. HEALTHCARE & SAFETY PROCEDURES**

### **COVID-19 Health & Safety Procedures**

Please visit our website at <https://www.acarts.org/covid-19-updates> for the most up-to-date information about our COVID policies

Have follow-up questions about our policies this summer? **Please contact ACA's camp staff at [info@acarts.org](mailto:info@acarts.org)**

### **General Health Policy:**

If a child is not feeling well, they must remain at home. Campers may not attend camp if they have the following symptoms:

- A fever over 101 degrees within 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours
- Early stages of a cold
- Sore throat or swollen glands
- Undiagnosed rash or skin eruptions
- Earache or drainage from the eyes
- Head lice or scabies, until properly treated
- An upset stomach

### **First Aid Procedures:**

In case of any basic first aid (minor cuts, etc.), a camper will be brought to the ACA office by a counselor or ACA staff member. A sign indicating the First Aid area is displayed just outside the ACA Office.

All injuries and/or illnesses are dealt with by an ACA staff member who is CPR and First Aid certified. ACA staff will wear gloves when administering any first aid, including cleaning cuts and scrapes, applying bandages, etc.

For more serious injuries, if the parent(s) or guardian(s) cannot be reached right away, an emergency contact person will be called and asked to arrange for the child to be taken to the doctor. If the accident is very serious, the ACA staff will call 911 to provide emergency care for the child; simultaneously, ACA staff will call both the parent/guardian and the child's pediatrician to arrange for the child to be met and treated at the hospital.

### **Illness:**

In the case of illness, the child's parent or guardian will be contacted, and medication administered with permission from the parent or guardian.

If a child becomes ill while at camp, a parent or guardian will be asked to pick up the child immediately. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, one of the emergency contacts may be asked to pick up the child.

In extreme circumstances, an ambulance may be called, or a child may be taken to an emergency center or hospital in the care of a staff member.

### **Medication:**

In accordance with state regulations, prescription drugs can only be administered to children by the ACA staff if:

- the medication is a current prescription;
- the medication is in an original container with child's name, date, name of the medicine, dosage, and special instructions clearly marked;
- there is a written request from the child's parent or guardian with instructions

Non-prescription drugs, in an original container and not out of date, may be administered by ACA staff only with verbal confirmation from a parent/guardian or written instructions, including dosage, from a physician.

In special cases, such as bronchial inhalers for asthmatic children or a diabetic pump, the child may be permitted to administer his/her own medication with staff supervision.

Non-prescription topical creams, ointments, and sprays can be administered by ACA staff with written permission and instructions from the parent or guardian. Each item must be clearly labeled with the child's name.

ACA staff will wear gloves when administering any medication. Both ACA staff and the camper will wash hands after medication is administered.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If your child will require a prescription medication at camp (including epi-pens and inhalers), please be sure to submit an Authorization to Administer Medication form (available at: <https://www.acarts.org/camp-policies>). Depending on the medication, your request may need to be approved by ACA's Health Care Supervisor before camp begins. Due to state regulations, all self administered insulin or epi-pens MUST be approved by ACA's Health Care Supervisor before camp begins. Please be sure to submit your Authorization to Administer Medication as soon as possible.

### **Sunscreen:**

ACA's camp license requires written permission for campers to apply sunscreen at camp, both by themselves or with the assistance of staff. If you would like your camper to use sunscreen at camp, please fill out and return the sunscreen form each week and when/ if you change brands or start a new bottle. Sunscreen will be collected at the start of camp and distributed when necessary. **You will receive this form in advance of the camp week(s) for which your camper is enrolled**

### **Medication Drop-Off:**

All medications (i.e. Epi-pens, inhalers, etc) should be dropped off with an ACA staff member during the screening process on Monday morning and picked up end-of-day Friday (or

equivalent last day). Please place medications in a clear, zip locked bag, labeled with the child's first and last name *and any special instructions*.

#### **Preventing Abuse and Neglect:**

ACA protects children from abuse and neglect while in the program's care and custody and follows state law procedures for reporting of any suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect. All ACA staff are mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect, including physical, sexual and psychological. Staff training includes written copies of ACA reporting policy, as follows:

1. All staff shall immediately report any suspected child abuse or neglect, either to the Education & Programs Director, or to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.
2. The Education & Programs Director shall immediately report suspected abuse or neglect to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.
3. The Education & Programs Director shall notify in writing the Department and Board of Health if a report is filed alleging abuse or neglect of a child while in the care of ACA. The 51A report itself shall not be forwarded to the Board of Health.

ACA shall cooperate in all official investigations of abuse or neglect, including identifying parents of campers currently or previously enrolled in the camp.

If child abuse/neglect is suspected of a staff member, it will be addressed immediately. The Education & Programs Director will initiate the required paperwork, and contact the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, and the Board of Health. The allegedly abusive or neglectful staff member(s) will be put on a leave of absence pending an investigation by the appropriate authorities.

All staff have state run CORI and SORI background checks before starting work. ACA also adheres to a strict "**Rule of Three**" policy, which requires that a child never be alone with a single adult (counselors, staff and teachers included) in an enclosed space.

## **VI. Camper Behavior Expectations**

### **Behavior Management:**

ACA strives to provide positive and consistent guidance to children based on their individual needs and development. We encourage children to respect each other, staff, and our physical environment.

Teachers begin each new session with a class contract, allowing campers to decide what behaviors will make them feel safe and supported in the class. Teachers will make sure campers consider how they treat themselves, others, materials, and their environment. Campers will be informed of spaces, people, and resources to turn to if they need a break, need to talk, or need to process feelings. ACA's teachers, counselors, and front office staff go through training to state observations to campers and ask clarifying questions, in an attempt to understand each camper's perspective on a given situation. If a camper's behavior or language is inappropriate and is either unsafe or distracting to other students, we have the following policy:

1. A teacher will ask clarifying questions about the camper's behavior, then redirect the camper or explain why the behavior needs to stop.
2. If the child's behavior persists, the teacher will ask a counselor to bring the child to our office for a cool-down period.
3. The Counselor will fill out a Behavior Incident Report to communicate the issue to the Camp Coordinators, Camp Manager and/or Education & Programs Director.
4. The Camp Coordinators, Camp Director and/or Education & Programs Director will inquire about the incident with the child again, asking their own clarifying questions. The camper, teacher, and counselor will be notified of any proceeding actions before sending the camper back to the classroom if the issue is one that can be resolved that day. At times, the Camp Director might call parents/guardians to discuss strategies that might work to communicate and assist their camper in understanding expectations.
5. If the behavior persists after the child returns to the classroom- or if the behavior reported creates an unsafe space for the child, class, or camp- the ACA Education & Programs Director will contact the child's parent/guardian to discuss what behavior occurred, reiterate camp expectations, dismiss the camper for the remainder of the day, and create a contingency plan with strategies to help the child the following day.
6. A child may be asked to leave the program if the child's behavior makes the environment for the child or other children unsafe. No refund if a child is dismissed from the program.

All ACA programs prohibit the following practices:

- spanking/corporal punishment
- cruel or severe punishment, humiliation or verbal abuse
- no child shall be denied food, water or shelter
- no child shall be punished for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet

**Suspension or termination from the program:**

Should it appear that a child's behavior continues to be disruptive or dangerous to him or herself or to other children after sincere attempts from both the family and the ACA staff, the ACA reserves the right to suspend or terminate participation in the program. The ACA staff will arrange for parent conferences to resolve issues. If a child is suspended, families will be referred to local services for help with the child's behavior.

## **VII. Communication with Families:**

Staff will verbally check in with parents/guardians at pick-up concerning any injury or behavior incidents. We also provide frequent emails including any information that may affect the program. If you notice anything that concerns you or your child, please feel free to talk to the Camp Manager or the Education & Programs Director.

You will receive a **Confirmation Letter** at least 2 weeks before camp begins and **Welcome Letter** with a **schedule** prior to the start of the camp week.

You will subsequently receive a **Newsletter** on Friday of each camp week, detailing the week's activities, as well as a **Survey** on Friday afternoon, where you can share any feedback about your child's experience in our camp program.

### **In Case of Weather:**

In case of snow or weather cancellations/delays, we will send an email to all families and list the info on our website.



## **VIII. Staff Roles:**

We have a dedicated and caring staff in all ACA's Vacation Arts Programs. Our summer counselors are responsible and friendly young people, who love the arts and are deeply committed to creating the best camp experience possible for each child at ACA. ACA teachers are enthusiastic, professional teachers and artists who work each week to give campers an opportunity for creative self-expression and to have a positive experience in the arts. The organizing and administrative staff includes:

- **Cat Beaudoin**, Education and Programs Director ([cat@acarts.org](mailto:cat@acarts.org))
- **Pam Shanley**, Operations Director ([pam@acarts.org](mailto:pam@acarts.org))
- **Michael Mahin**, Student Services Manager ([michael@acarts.org](mailto:michael@acarts.org))
- **Aneleise Ruggles**, Communications Director ([aneleise@acarts.org](mailto:aneleise@acarts.org))
- **Tom Formicola**, Executive Director ([tom@acarts.org](mailto:tom@acarts.org))
- **Delia Tharnish**, Camp Manager ([campmanager@acarts.org](mailto:campmanager@acarts.org))
- Camp Coordinator(s) ([camp@acarts.org](mailto:camp@acarts.org))

For more information, visit our website at: <https://www.acarts.org/staff>

### **Staff Ratios:**

Vacation Arts – 2 staff to 10 children

Art Academy - 2 staff to 10 children

## **Further Information**

ACA maintains detailed policies and procedures for the following; if you would like to review these policies, please request them in writing at the ACA Office.

- Emergency Procedures
- Staff Hiring and Background Reviews
- Health Care Policy
- Behavior Management Policy
- Grievance Procedure

### **Arlington Center for the Arts**

Administrative Office: 20 Academy Street, Arlington, MA 02476

[www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org) | P: 781-648-6220 | [camp@acarts.org](mailto:camp@acarts.org)