



**NAUSET
YOUTH
ALLIANCE**

Positively Guiding Today's Youth
Into Tomorrow's World

NEWSLETTER

April 2022

#TheHeartofAfterschool

Research has shown that afterschool programs like Nauset Youth Alliance provide a wide range of benefits to children, families, and communities by supporting social, emotional, and cognitive development, reducing risky behaviors, promoting physical health, and providing a supportive environment for children. Attending an afterschool program can lead to improved social and emotional competencies, including prosocial behavior, intrinsic motivation, better concentration efforts, and a higher sense of self-worth.

While NYA does not teach traditional academic subjects, we do focus our curriculum on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. This learning takes place in the context of relationships: relationships between children and relationships between children and their teachers.

What does teaching through relationships mean? It posits that teachers who have knowledge about their students will be better able to teach them. It means that a teacher becomes a guide and mentor, not to be confused with that of a friend or a buddy. My staff will tell you that one of my many sayings is “we are friendly to our students but we are not friends.” The phrase also has a subtext that has difficulty distancing itself from scandal and inappropriate behavior. However, teaching through relationships does not encourage this type of fraternizing. Instead, it maintains the formal relationship between student and teacher while recognizing the human stories of the learners themselves (they are not “table rosa” – blank slates) as well as that of the teacher.

So what is the role of the teacher in this scenario? It means getting to know the students’ learning styles and where they are in terms of their knowledge, abilities, and potential. More importantly, it also means keying in on their interests, personality and background. For the teacher, this body of knowledge opens up the possibilities of growth and learning opportunities. Lev Vygotsky, the child psychologist who asserted that learning is relational, sees language/conversation as central to the relational aspects of learning. He

**David Rost, Executive Director • 508-896-7900 • drost@nausetyouthalliance.org
Website: nausetyouthalliance.org • Federal Tax ID: 04-3101427**

Important Dates

Early Release

Wed. Apr. 6th

NYA begins at 11 AM following early dismissal. If your child is attending NYA on an early release day, please be sure to send a lunch or request the bag lunch offered by the schools prior to dismissal time.





School closes for Spring Break on April 15th and reopens on April 25th. There is no NYA April 18-22.

also emphasized the role of community, such as the community we strive to create each day at NYA, that facilitates the learning process.

Teachers also serve as “the spoke in the wheel”, the active agent who builds relationships between students by getting to know them and asking friendly questions about their interests and backgrounds. This becomes not only a way for the teacher to get to know their students, it also allows students to learn about each other and to see their peers as friends, colleagues, and co-learners.

April 25-29 is Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, a week set aside to recognize, appreciate, and advocate for the “#HeartOfAfterschool.” While in an ideal world the work of afterschool professionals would be celebrated each and every day, I hope that you will join me in recognizing and showing appreciation of the dedicated and professional staff we have at NYA. We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented team, each with their own interesting and intriguing backgrounds, working with our children. Don’t wait until the last week of April, please take a moment to thank them at pick-up or with a note.

2022 Summer Program

We will be offering a summer program from July 5th through August 19th from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at the Stony Brook School. The late start date is due to the five school closure days we had this year that extends the school year by a week.

We will continue to adhere to current EEC and CDC guidelines. At the time of this writing, it would mean mask wearing is optional, frequent hand sanitizing and washing, and grades in cohorts. Our planning is to have cohorts for those completing kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and a combined 4th /5th grade, for a total of five groups. This means there is a possibility when signing siblings up there is space for one and not for the other. Therefore, we advise families to enroll early. It is easier to modify a schedule than it is to sit on a waitlist.

As in the past we will continue to provide two snacks per day. Families will continue to pack their own lunches. Families can enroll for as few or as many weeks as they wish and choose the days of the week their child(ren) attend. We will be taking all-day field trips on Thursdays in Weeks Two through Six and Tuesday on Week Seven. Students going on field trips must attend for the full day.

We are again offering a morning-only and an afternoon-only option in addition to the full-day one. Students attending Brewster Recreation in the morning will be escorted on the walking trail between Eddy and Stony Brook at the conclusion of Rec each day they attend both programs. We are unable to accommodate families who live outside Brewster this summer, including visiting grandchildren.

We look forward to another fun and successful summer. If you have any questions, please email drost@nausetyouthalliance.org.

Can I Claim
The Care
Credit?

Dependent Care Expenses

Instructions for your 2020 child care costs can be found using this link.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1no1gJPTBEltIFYEA136uPMLNqpbh5T9Y/view?usp=sharing>

Please be in touch with David with any questions.

Please put your child's name in clothing they might remove while at NYA, i.e., coats, sweatshirts, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, winter boots, etc. If there is a name in them, we can reunite the clothing with your child. Use a marker to write their name on a label, get preprinted labels and iron them in, etc. It would be a shame if a child were to lose a holiday gift from Santa, parents, grandparents... We also request that you put their name on water bottles. We would love to have a completely empty lost and found basket. Thank you!



Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 17th from 5:30 - 6:30 at Stony Brook. A pizza dinner with dessert will be provided and there will be a performance by students. Bring the whole family, enjoy watching your child(ren) perform, and let someone else cook and clean for a night!