



Wisdom Projects, Inc.

Reimagining Education | Reimagining Peace | Reimagining the World



2023-2024 RELEASE FORM FOR THE “FREE SCHOOL” OF THE MCKIM CENTER

**A Partnership of the McKim Center, McKim Community Association, Inc.
And the Baltimore Wisdom Project, Wisdom Projects, Inc.**

THIS FORM IS THREE (3) PAGES, FRONT AND BACK.

About the “Free School” of the McKim Center

Not after-care. Not childcare. The McKim Center’s 200-plus year old “Free School” is one of the oldest free/no-cost structured educational out-of-school-time/after-school programs in the country. McKim is the oldest community center in the United States. McKim was a former site of the Underground Railroad, and it has a long history of fostering liberation for marginalized people. McKim has uplifted peace, safety, nonviolence, and healthy living for thousands of children, youth, and families with athletics, academics, and health studies. Athletics has been a mainstay of McKim’s programming for over 60 years. Today, McKim’s “Free School” emphasizes “Athletics, STEM, & Healing Arts” for youth (ideally) aged 8-18, with a special emphasis on middle grade physical education and social and emotional education. The Baltimore Wisdom Project (BWP) is the Educational and Health Services Partner of the McKim Center. For more information about the McKim Center visit <https://mckimcenter.org>. For more information about the Baltimore Wisdom Project, visit <https://baltimorewisdomproject.org>.

Attendance & Punctuality

The program is free/no-cost. Excellent attendance, punctuality, and participation are required. \$5-\$20 late pickup fee in effect. Parents/guardians are expected to contribute to field trip costs. This is a grant-funded program. We must demonstrate that every child is consistently attending. We require that youth enrolled in the program **NOT** miss more than **3 days** per month. Arrangements can be made to temporarily excuse youth participating in outside athletics or other activities. We also require that the youth arrive on time (if they do not have transportation provided by us) and stay the entire time until the session is over. See the “At-A-Glance” document for scheduling and other information.

Disease Prevention

- If the youth is sick in any fashion, we require that the parent/legal guardian keep the youth home.
- If a youth arrives and exhibits illness, they may be isolated from the other youth and the parent/legal guardian called and required to pick the youth up to take them home and get the child healthcare.
- We use gloves for meal service, set-up, clean-up, and science experiments.
- We require all youth to wash hands thoroughly and dry them after bathroom use; to hand-sanitize before meals; and to work with us to make sure surfaces are sanitized and cleaned.
- We no longer require masks unless local, state, and/or federal authorities deem it necessary.

Cell Phone & Devices Policy

McKim’s “Free School” is **NOT** a time for cell phone usage or playtime on personal devices. Nor is it the time for charging cell phones or devices. Upon entering the community center, all youth’s cell phones are collected and placed in a lock box. At dismissal, the cell phone or device is returned to the youth. If parents/guardians wish to contact youth for emergencies during programming, please call 443-615-1618.

Emergency Medical Release

If emergency medical care is necessary, the parent/guardian authorizes the McKim Center and its representatives/partners to support the child/youth to receive emergency medical treatment (including basic first aid and urgent care at an approved facility with the parent/guardian's permission). For major emergencies, staff will call the parents/guardians first and ask the kind of intervention that they wish to execute to care for the child. Parents/legal guardians agree to bear all costs for all medical attention or healthcare for their child/youth.

Belongings and Outside Food/Drink Policy

- The McKim Center and its representatives/partners are not responsible for youth's belongings and cannot pay for the replacement of youth's belongings. Upon entry, we require that youth place their belongings on the coat rack and, at dismissal, youth retrieve their belongings. Staff will make a good faith effort to look for lost items and the community center maintains a "lost and found" bin.
- We require that parents/legal guardians not have their youth bring expensive items with them to the community center.
- We require that youth NOT bring outside food/drink into the building. Outside food/drink creates disruptions as other youth often demand to eat/drink what their peers bring to the center. Moreover, it is difficult for staff to gauge the healthy content of outside food/drink. Please DO NOT have youth bring outside food/drink to the center.

Code of Conduct

We require that the parent/legal guardian and the youth abide by every item in the McKim Center's Code of Conduct, which can be viewed here:

<https://mckimcenter.org/code-of-conduct>

We require that the parent/legal guardian sit down with their youth and carefully read-through the Code of Conduct so that the youth understand every item. Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may result in temporary suspension, mediation, or expulsion.

The McKim Center's pillars are **structure, discipline, love, and respect** and we require that everyone, parents/guardians/relatives/youth, always abide by the Code of Conduct and the pillars.

One child in the bathroom at a time.

Hold Harmless Release

Parents/guardians hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the McKim Center, its directors, officers, organizers, sponsors, supervisory staff, participants, representatives, partners, and any other affiliates (hereafter simply the McKim Center) for, from, and against all liability because of any bodily injury, or property damage, known or unknown, which may occur or result from the participation of the above named child/youth in any and all activities whether the result of negligence or for any other cause of the McKim Center. Parents/guardians execute this release voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Release and Authorization to Produce and Use Audiovisual Materials

Parents/guardians hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize the McKim Center, its directors, officers, organizers, sponsors, supervisory staff, participants, representatives, partners, and any other affiliates (hereafter simply the McKim Center) to produce online, printed, and digital photographs, videos, audio-tapes, Power Point Presentations, Zoom media, virtual media, and other multimedia presentations of the child/youth in the program to fundraise for our free programming and enhance our mission; and parents/guardians authorize online learning elements through platforms like Zoom.

Orderly Safe Arrival and Dismissal

- Orderly and safe arrival and dismissal is key to our programming.
- We cannot release a child to individuals with legal first and last names that are not identified on this release form or updated in a text message or email (to mckimcenter@gmail.com). We may call the parent/legal guardian of record to verify the identity of the person that comes to pick up a youth. We may also ask the person picking up the youth to produce a state ID or driver's license. Please understand that we do this to uphold safety for the youth and to adhere to state and local laws pertaining to custody of the child/youth. We cannot be involved in custody disputes that flare up within problematic dismissals or pickups of children/youth.
- We do not have children/youth crowd at the door of the center for arrival or dismissal. We require youth to enter and exist in orderly lines, one-by-one, or in groups, and to remain seated until they are called to be dismissed for the day. These procedures ensure safety for all youth and families.

Please write out the LEGAL names (as it appears on the driver's license or state ID) and relationship with the family of all individuals permitted to pick up/drop off the parent/legal guardian's youth/children.

I, the Parent/Guardian or legal designate, agree to all the terms, releases, stipulations, and codes of conduct within this release form as indicated by my signature below.

Printed LEGAL Name (as it appears on the State ID or Driver's License) of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Legal Parent/Guardian:

Date:

Full legal name, age, and **month/day/year of birth** of all children registering:

School of children:

Telephone number:

Home address:

Email address:

Allergies of child (if any):

Medical condition (if any):

Does the child have a 504 or IEP plan (if any—please specify)?

Does the child have any behavioral issues (use back of page if needed)?