

City of Newton



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Mayor

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

After school and summer activities can be an essential part of your child's educational and social/emotional learning. Research has shown the value of after school and summer programs and here in Newton, we are lucky enough to have numerous high quality out of school time programs.

The City of Newton's Executive Office, Health and Human Services Department and Newton Public Schools are currently working on promoting out-of-school time for middle schoolers. While all young people benefit from out of school time activities that help them grow and learn, middle school tends to be an age when student participation decreases. And yet, we know that this is a key time in development for young people to have positive role models, begin to identify skills and interests that may stay with them into adulthood. It is also a time when self-identity and judgement are forming and so positive, structured experiences can be especially beneficial. And of course, we want our middle schoolers to have FUN in safe, engaging ways.

While we are still in the early stages of this work, we have created a webpage on the City website to help families find summer options for their middle schooler, as well as provide other valuable information like financial aid tips, helpful links and more. We will be continually adding more to the webpage in the coming months but with summer coming up we want to share what we have now to help with your planning. We welcome any feedback and ideas.

[Click here to visit the Middle School Resources webpage](#)

Sincerely,

Deborah Youngblood
Commissioner of Health and Human Services