



RSU 5 Recreation & Community Education

OMEGA – Middle School Afterschool Program

FAQ

What is OMEGA?

OMEGA (Opportunities for Mentored Exploration, Growth and Achievement) is an afterschool program sponsored by RSU 5 Recreation & Community Education, designed specifically for students in grades 6 – 8. The program will complement and reinforce academic learning by combining focused, age-appropriate enrichment activities with tutoring and/or homework help. Students will also have time to relax and unwind, enjoy a healthy snack, take part in indoor or outdoor physical activity and socialize in a structured environment.

Where will it be held?

OMEGA will be held right at the Freeport Middle School, which will provide access to school resources and allow students to take advantage of school sponsored sports, clubs and activities. Off-site activities, such as Trailblazers field trips, will be scheduled on most Fridays.

When will it be offered?

Beginning in September 2011, the program will operate Monday – Friday, throughout the school year, whenever school is in session. Program hours will be 2:15 – 5:30pm.

Why choose OMEGA?

Studies have shown that students who have access to quality after school programs are more likely to be productive and successful in school, have higher scores in standardized tests, and are less likely to drop out.

The OMEGA program will:

- Provide a safe, supervised, and structured after-school environment for children in grades 6 – 8.
- Collaborate with FMS teachers, teen center, parents and community
- Supporting school curriculum, enhance learning with educational enrichment activities
- Support struggling students with tutoring and homework help
- Foster an enthusiasm for learning that keeps kids engaged
- Promote healthy lifestyles with balanced program that includes recreation and healthy nutrition

Who will run the program?

A program leader with a background in education and experience working with the middle school age group will be running the program. In addition, volunteers will be utilized to assist in facilitating activities, teaching a special skill, or helping with homework. Program assistants will be selected based on their diverse backgrounds and their ability to enrich the lives of the OMEGA students.

What will a typical day look like?

OMEGA afternoons will begin with a recreational period that will give students the chance to be active and unwind. Healthy snacks will be provided. Activities might include games in the gym or on the fields, outdoor adventure experiences such as hiking, or snowshoeing, or even field trips to other venues such as the YMCA or Maine Rock Gym.

There will be a designated study period where students can work on homework and receive academic support or tutoring from a qualified education professional. An enrichment curriculum will be developed to supplement and complement school day learning. Enrichment activities will address a variety of educational subjects. Potential activities include a hands-on forensic science course, service learning projects, an interactive history expedition with the Freeport Historical Society or a geography exploration field trip to DeLorme Maps.

OMEGA will operate in partnership with the PORT Teen Center, taking advantage of Trailblazers and other PORT programs and activities, and occasionally utilizing the teen center facility.

Computers will be available for students to work on homework or school projects. Computerized learning programs, such as Fast ForWord, will be utilized as an effective tool for any student who may be struggling in school. As a group, OMEGA students will have the opportunity to develop their own website and blog, expand their world by corresponding with international pen pals, and develop creative projects, such as Garage Band or iMovie, that they would like to produce.

How much does the program cost?

The program tuition is \$75 per week after an annual registration fee of \$25. Payments may be made weekly or monthly, but ***must be paid in advance***. We accept payment by check, cash or credit card. If you choose to pay by credit card, a 3% service charge will be assessed.

Can my child attend part-time or on a drop-in basis?

We will not be able to accommodate students on a drop-in basis. We will, however, allow partial week enrollment on a regular schedule at a minimum of two days per week. Cost per day is \$25. Because the program is curriculum based, there will be multi-week enrichment programs that students would benefit from attending regularly. For that reason, we strongly encourage parents to register their child for the full week program.

Should you need to withdraw your child from the program, we require notification at least two weeks in advance.

How do I register my child for OMEGA?

For more information, or to register your child, contact RSU5 RCE at 865-6171.

**RSU 5 Recreation & Community Education
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