



## **THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PROGRAM**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

### ***Electronics***

Campers are permitted to bring cell phones/iPods/iPads. All electronics will be collected upon arrival and kept secured in the counselor's room. GSSP is an electronic free program. Devices will only be returned during our "call home" time. The traditional "call home" time is Thursdays after our evening activity (between 8:00-10:00 p.m. EST) starting week 2. If emergency situations pop-up where you need to speak to your child immediately, please contact the summer office (716.652.3450) and we will have your child get in touch with you as soon as possible.

### ***No Computers***

Students will have access to the School's computers for emailing use throughout the academic day, so they will have the ability to get in touch with you via email. Five weeks without a computer may help your child more than you know!

### ***No TV's***

Well.....it's summer. We do our best to be outside for as much of the day as possible. Computers and televisions hinder social interaction, which is one of the fundamental components of this program. Therefore, televisions are not allowed during the summer program.

### ***Don't expect a call until July 11<sup>th</sup>***

We have learned that the participants in the Summer Program have the most success when we do not let them call home for the first week of the Program. I understand this may be a lot to ask of YOU, but please understand that this provides a much smoother transition for them into the Program. This will help your child understand who they must go to for help while here. The quicker they can learn this, the better it is for them. If you would like to get



an email message to them through us, please feel free to email the Director of the Summer Program at [summer@gow.org](mailto:summer@gow.org). Put your child's first and last name in the subject line. We will print out the message and a staff member will pass the message along to your child.

### **Communication Information**

#### **Telephone**

**The Gow School: 716.652.3450**

Ask for the Summer Program office. A message will be passed on to your child's counselor.

Office Hours are 8:00am - 4:00pm. After office hours, calls are received by our answering service. In the event of an emergency, you may request that Jon Chafin be paged, 24 hours a day.

#### **Mail and Packages**

If you want to mail packages or ship trunks, duffle bags, etc. prior to your child's arrival, please do so after June 10. Please be sure to properly label all belongings and include a copy of any trunk keys.

All mail and packages (via U.S. Postal Service, UPS, or courier service) should be addressed to your child at:

**The Gow School Summer Program**

**2491 Emery Road**

**South Wales, NY 14139**

2491 Emery Rd | South Wales, NY 14139 | P 716.687.2001 | F 716.687.2003  
[gow.org/summer-programs](http://gow.org/summer-programs)



**For the health and safety of the campus, all packages being shipped from a third-party vendor will be opened before they are delivered to campers.**

### **E-mail**

Please feel free to send messages to your child via our e-mail address:

**summer@gow.org**

Please be sure to put your child's first and last name on the "Subject" line.

Your child will not have the opportunity to e-mail you back from this email.

-OR-

**Fax: 716-652-3457**

### **Spending Money**

Spending money has been figured into the tuition and will be kept in the bookstore. Counselors distribute spending money as appropriate for each activity or trip.

If you choose to send extra cash, we strongly recommend that all cash be kept in the Business Office. It **should not** be kept in the student's room. **The Gow School cannot be responsible if it is lost or stolen.**

### **Laundry**

There are laundry facilities available in every dormitory. We will assist all campers ages 8-11 with this task. Campers ages 12 and up will do their own laundry. The Counselors will assist them if necessary. Machines are free to use, so no quarters will be needed, but they should provide their own detergent.



### **Birthdays**

If you would like to have your son or daughter's birthday celebrated with his or her group, please contact our Summer Program Office at 716.687.2086 or [summer@gow.org](mailto:summer@gow.org). If contacting by email be sure to include the word "birthday" in the subject line.

### **Counseling Services**

The Gow School Summer Program offers counseling services. The school counselor provides students with the support they need to develop academically and socially. Counseling is made available in individual settings to help students overcome behavioral problems, deal with personal issues, minimize negative situations with other students, and offer a safe, comfortable, and non-intimidating place to discuss the things on their mind.

The Gow School Summer Program's Counselor is Mr. Brian Zolet, M.A. Mr. Zolet has spent more than 25 years of his career working in many areas of independent schooling, the majority of them at boarding schools for students with dyslexia and/or other language-based learning disabilities. His office will be located in the Main Building.

If you would like your child to receive these services, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Zolet at [bzolet@gow.org](mailto:bzolet@gow.org) for more details.



## **A NOTE ON CONDUCT AND DRESS**

Expectations of conduct and discipline at The Gow School Summer Program are not covered in a policy book. Our approach regarding discipline is humanistic and fair. If a student is exhibiting inappropriate behavior, the Dean of Campers will meet with him/her individually and the situation will be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the individual circumstances of the student, as well as the welfare of the entire community. Continued and excessive inappropriate behavior will likely result in dismissal from the Summer Program.

Please be aware that students are forbidden to possess weapons, alcohol, drugs (including any type of inhalant) or paraphernalia. If a student is caught with any of these items, he/she will be dismissed. The Gow School is a “smoke free” campus in addition to being a “drug free” school zone. We have a great regard for the health of our community. Accordingly, we do not allow our students (or employees) to use or possess tobacco products. If a student is caught with tobacco products, he/she may be dismissed. If parents are aware of a tobacco or substance abuse problem, it is recommended that they not send their child to The Gow School Summer Program. The mission of The Gow School Summer Program is far too important to our students for us to allow involvement with any of these destructive and counterproductive behaviors.

With regard to the dress code, The Gow School Summer Program is a casual environment. Student’s clothing should be in good repair, of appropriate length, and age appropriate. Undergarments should not be visible. Any clothing that bears an alcohol, sexual related, drug, or paraphernalia theme or contains inappropriate language is not permitted. A one-piece bathing suit is recommended due to the age of our students. Two-piece bathing suits are suitable if worn with a covering. Earrings are allowed, but other pierced body areas are not. Female students are asked not to pack low-cut tops or excessively short skirts or shorts; they will not be allowed to wear this apparel.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Director of the Summer Program, Jon Chafin at [jchafin@gow.org](mailto:jchafin@gow.org).

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