Dear Aidan Families,

A new school year is here, and we're thrilled to have you and your child joining us for another year of the After-School Program (ASP) at Aidan! We're looking forward to creating a fun, supportive, and enriching afternoon experience for our students. We've gathered some helpful information and updates below to make the start of the year as easy and seamless as possible for your family.

Program Hours

- **Primary ASP** | 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Elementary ASP** | 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Our After-School Program (ASP) provides a welcoming space where children can relax, connect with friends, and enjoy their afternoons. Students will have plenty of opportunities for outdoor play on our natural playground, creative art projects, group games, and activities that encourage exploration and imagination. Most importantly, ASP gives children time to build friendships, have fun, and feel connected within a caring and supportive community.

Our ASP spaces include: the Upper Elementary and Sassafras classrooms, the ground floor Overhang area, and the playground.

Discovery Programs

During ASP hours, families can also choose to enroll in Discovery Programs, which offer enrichment classes for an additional fee. Discovery is offered in three sessions throughout the year—Fall, Winter, and Spring—and includes a variety of creative, academic, and physical activities.

Fall Discovery registration will open on September 4th, and classes will begin on September 21.

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Pickup & Sign-Out Procedures

Parking & Entry:

- Park in the lot behind the school or use a legal street spot.
- For pickup, meet your child at the central playground gate.

Dismissal:

- An ASP teacher will accompany your child to the gate at pickup.
- ASP staff will sign your child out on your behalf—no need for parents to enter the playground or classroom.

Late Pickup Policy:

- ASP pickup is between 3:15 and 6:00 p.m.
- Late pickups after 6:00 p.m. will result in a $40 immediate charge per child, plus $2.50 per minute per child thereafter.

Snack Update

Families are kindly asked to contribute fresh fruits and vegetables on a voluntary scheduled rotating basis. Aidan will continue to provide non-perishable snacks.

- Snack guidelines will be shared separately.
- Link for ASP Snack Sign up: ASP Snack Sign Up
- If a week goes unassigned, we'll reach out for volunteers the week prior. If needed, Aidan will provide snacks for that week.
- A reminder email will be sent the week before your scheduled snack contribution.

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Meet the ASP Team

We're lucky to have a passionate and caring team guiding your children during after-school hours:

- **Michael Pisigan** – Director of Auxiliary Programs



Michael Pisigan loves supporting children as they grow and is inspired by their pure energy and curiosity. He has worked as an inclusion aide for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and as a Montessori classroom assistant for three years. A graduate of Frostburg State University with a B.S. in Recreation and Parks Management and a minor in Sociology, Michael was introduced to Montessori through his mother, who has worked in the field for over a decade. He is excited to be part of the Aidan community. Outside of school, Michael enjoys hiking, traveling, exercising, and working on his motorcycle.

- **Zyan Reid** – ASP Teacher



Zyan loves working with children and watching them grow, whether through problem-solving or play. Before joining Aidan, she worked in a church daycare and as a school photographer in the DMV. Originally from Georgia, Zyan recently moved to the area and enjoys art, music, and walks in her free time. She is excited to be part of the Aidan Montessori community and to learn more about the Montessori approach.

- **Alexa Cruz** – ASP Teacher



Alexa loves working with children and enjoys watching them grow through creativity, curiosity, and learning. Through her experience in after-school enrichment programs and at Washington International School, where she taught Mini Med and other classes, she discovered that working with children is truly her vocation. Born and raised in Washington, DC, Alexa loves the beauty of the city, especially the cherry blossoms. In her free time, she enjoys playing the piano and helping children in need in Central America. She is excited to begin her journey at Aidan Montessori School, where she hopes to support children through trust, creativity, and encouragement while continuing to learn and grow alongside them.

- **Dara Schweitzer** - ASP Teacher



Dara is excited to return to Aidan for a second year! She is excited to take on the role of ASP assistant after having worked as upper elementary assistant the previous school year. Prior to Aidan, Dara completed an Americorps fellowship in which she taught gardening and sustainability at an elementary school in California. Dara is incredibly passionate about all things related to nature and is excited to continue cultivating green spaces around Aidan and beyond! Additionally, Dara is a lover of all things theatre! She received her masters degree in Drama and Theatre education from the University of Warwick in 2023 (in which she studied using drama and storytelling for nature connection).

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Our team is committed to making this school year a safe, fun, and enriching experience for every child. We look forward to creating meaningful memories, encouraging new friendships, and providing a welcoming space where every child can learn, grow, and enjoy their time with us.

If you ever have questions, ideas, or need support during the school year, please feel free to reach out. We're always happy to help and look forward to another wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, and exciting experiences with your children!

Warmly,

Michael & The ASP Team