UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE

Extended Time Care (E.T.C.) Newsletter



Spots Still Available!

An Exciting Start to Specialty Programs!

We are thrilled to kick off another semester of E.T.C. PM Specialty Programs here at USM! Our programs aim to provide additional elective classes for Preschool, Lower School, and Middle School students. The majority of these classes fall outside of the typical USM curriculum and provide even more opportunities for students to learn, socialize, and develop new skills after their school day is over. There are a plethora of classes to chose from, including those that allow students to explore our incredible makerspace, work together to create a full-scale theatre production, learn the basics of chess, and so much more! Many classes still have spots available. Be sure to check out the full program booklet here and register here via UltraCamp!

If you could change the USM mascot to any animal, which would you pick?



"Um... Ummmmm... Doggy"
"Why?"
"Cause I think so..."
"What would the dog's name be?"
"Ummm... Grumpy!"

– Hallie Hendricks '41

October Spotlight

Meet Kianna

Introducing Kianna Hiemstra! Kianna serves as our specialty programs lead. She is currently a senior at UW-Milwaukee, majoring in K-12 special education. Kianna has worked for USM Summer Camps as a head counselor and won the "Biggest Go-Getter Award!" If you see Kianna around, make sure to say hello!



Quick Updates

Summer 2027: Be on the lookout for Summer Camps information coming soon! Registration will open on Dec. 9.

UltraCamp: Registration for some Fall Specialty Programs is still open! Click here to register or see the full program booklet here.

Learning on Ice

Forty Years of Learning and Skating Together

By Jill Herbst,
Learn to Skate Director

Directing and teaching in the USM Learn to Skate program has been an extraordinary 40-year adventure. When the program began in 1986, I could not have imagined how many children, families, and coaches would become a part of its story, or how profoundly they would shape my own life.

Over the years, our program has grown and evolved, but one teaching philosophy has remained at its heart: every child can learn. Children do not all learn in the same way or at the same pace, especially on the ice. Our responsibility as coaches is to recognize the individual child in front of us, discover what helps that child succeed, and create an environment where the challenges feel possible. Toys, music, and games blend fun and learning naturally so that skating just "happens." Sometimes progress means mastering a new skating skill. Sometimes it means finding the courage to let go of the wall, get back up after a fall, or believe, "I can do this."

Each year, more than 1,000 skaters (children and adults) register for the program, many returning season after season. Some eventually become coaches here themselves. Our current collegiate coaches grew up in the USM Learn to Skate program, and our apprentice leadership program for high school students now has a waiting list. Working with former skaters as they become patient, thoughtful teachers has been one of the greatest rewards of my career.

I have also had the privilege of watching kindergarten students grow up and graduate from USM. Seeing them in the hallways, remembering them as small children taking their first careful steps onto the ice, continues to bring me tremendous joy. And now, as the second generation of skaters join our program, the circle has been connected. The children from the past are now back as the parents of today's current skaters.

This program has taught me that skating lessons are never only about skating. They are about confidence, resilience, leadership, connection, and the remarkable things that happen to all of us when children know someone believes in them.



SIGN UP TODAY!

Learn to Skate

USM is proud to host the best ice skating development classes in the Milwaukee area! Our Learn to Skate program emphasizes universal skill development, a test-free environment, age-appropriate games to keep skaters engaged, and so much more! Don't forget to check out our youth hockey offerings as well! Click here to learn more or contact the Auxiliary Programs office at etc@usm.org or 414.540.3350.

Respect, Trust, Honesty, Fairness, and Kindness.

Community Spotlight

USM Bike Safety Clinic

Jaylin Lazzaro '28 and USM's mountain bike club are excited to offer the first USM bike safety clinic! This free clinic aims to inspire students in 2nd through 6th grade to get outside while teaching important bike skills such as hand signals, gear checks, neighborhood safety, etc. This clinic will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 1-2 p.m. in USM's front circle. Please sign up via the attached link and be sure to note the equipment list prior to arrival.



What do you like the most about E.T.C.?



"Probably having extra recess and playing with friends more because some people only get limited recess time. I just like spending time with people."

– Barrett Hopper '36

Stay in Touch

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Auxiliary Programs Coordinator
Mia Mullen '19: mmullen@usm.org

Mark Your Calendars!

Wildcat Camp Days:
Oct. 23, Nov. 12-13,
Feb. 12, March 4,
June 10-11

USM Winter Camp:
Dec. 21-22

USM Spring Break Camp:
March 22-26

USM Summer Camps 2027: June 21-Aug. 20

Sign up today!
www.usm.org/breakcamps

USM SUMMER CAMPS

USM LEARN TO SKATE

USM LEARN TO PLAY

USM FIGURE SKATING ACADEMY