



# NEWSLETTER

August 2025



## CYS Coordinator’s Corner

Dear Families,

As we close out a wonderful and fun summer, I want to thank all our families for sharing the season with us. From sunny days filled with activities to the laughter and memories our children created together, it was truly a joy to see them grow, explore, and enjoy everything CYS has to offer.

Now, as the crisp air of fall begins to settle in, we shift into the excitement of back-to-school season. New classrooms, new routines, and new opportunities for learning await our children, and we are ready to support them every step of the way. Fall also brings cooler weather and more time indoors, which means it is the start of cold and flu season. To keep our community healthy, we encourage families to practice simple daily habits: wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and get plenty of rest.



Together, let us make this transition from summer to fall one of health, growth, and excitement. Thank you for being an essential part of our CYS family. We look forward to a successful school year ahead.



**- Kresskala “Ms. K” Stewart**

### **NYC Public Schools Cell Phone Policy**

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, in accordance with New York State law, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is updating its policy regarding the use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices—including cell phones—in school.

continued on page 8



Summer Camp  
photos pages  
4 & 6



## at the next Parent Advisory Council meeting

**Date: Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 4:30 PM**

**Place: 412 Sterling Drive**

The PAC members and CYS staff work together to evaluate and improve programs and services for the positive development of our children.

Education is a fundamental part of any community. Schools and extra-curricular activities are where our kids spend most of their time throughout their childhoods and teens, and we trust these institutions to help mold our kids into capable, resilient members of society. Being a PAC member allows you to have a positive impact over our children's academic, social and overall success.

Join the Parent Advisory Council or nominate a parent who you think will make a difference in your child's education.



**Fort Hamilton's School Liaison Office** can assist you with bus transportation, school zoning, alternative school options, special education support and more.

Lisa Sheehan

[lisa.m.sheehan12.naf@army.mil](mailto:lisa.m.sheehan12.naf@army.mil)

Office: 718-630-4805

Building 412, Sterling Drive

# Parent Participation Program

September – November 2025

Receive a 10% discount on your monthly tuition for every 10 parent participation points earned! Here's a few ways how you can earn points:

- Assist with Homework Center (SAS).
- Assist with bulletin boards.
- Add to staff or children's library.
- Participate in events hosted by CYS.
- Conduct a workshop
- Attend Parent Advisory Council Meeting.



## CYS PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!



### CRICUT Master?

Let's get crafty!

Teach the basics of using the Cricut to CYS staff.

Materials and supplies will be provided.

### Cast Iron Connoisseur ?

Lead the way in seasoning our BRAND NEW cast iron set for our cooking club! Teach CYS this skillful technique that will help preserve and protect our equipment.

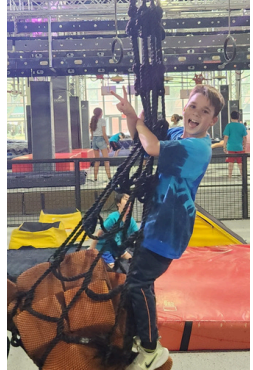


### GET A DISCOUNT OFF YOUR CHILDCARE BILL!

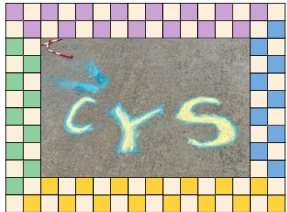
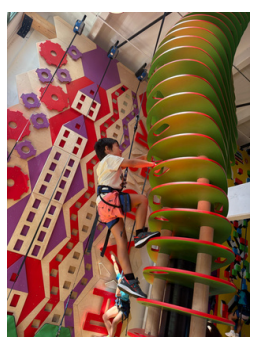
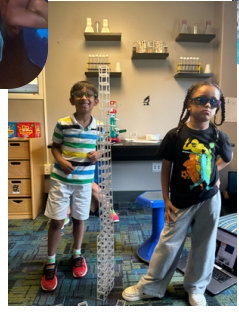
Call us for more information!  
(718) 630-4518



LITTLE  
MOMENTS  
**BIG**  
MEMORIES



**YAY!**



**FUN**





FORT HAMILTON CYS

WELCOME

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**BBQ DAY PARTY!**  
TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

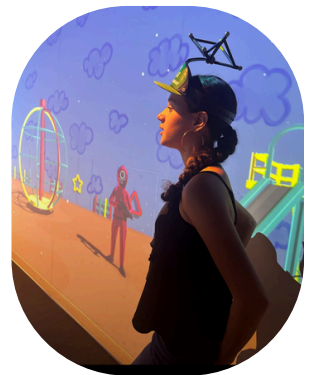
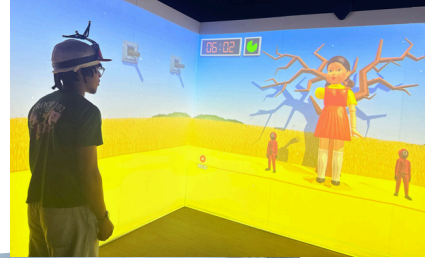
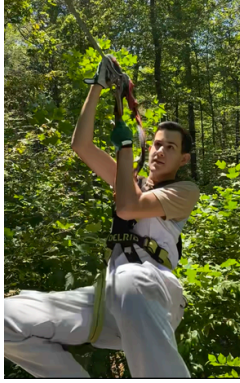
1100-1800HRS

YOUTH CENTER BLDG 412

FOR MORE INFO, CALL:  
(718) 630-4518



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# BACK TO SCHOOL TEEN NIGHT & OPEN HOUSE

Fort Hamilton  
Youth Center

Middle School &  
Teen Program

Grades 6-12

**Date: Saturday September 6, 2025**

**Time: 4pm-10pm**

**Location: Youth Center Bldg. 412**

**All Youth Grades 6-12 in the Fort Hamilton Community are welcome to this event!**



- Hails & Farewells
- Food/Cooking
- Games/Teambuilding
- Music/Karaoke
- Sports
- Youth Council Meeting
- Arts & Crafts

**FOR MORE INFO:**

(718) 630-4123

 [hamiltoncys\\_mst](https://www.instagram.com/hamiltoncys_mst)

This is the 2025–26 school year calendar for NYCPS schools from 3-K through grade 12. If your child attends a private, parochial, charter school, NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC), or Family Childcare Program, please contact your child’s school for information about their calendar. Please note the following:

- On days when school buildings are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, all students and families should plan on participating in remote learning.
- Individual schools’ Parent-Teacher Conference dates might be different from the dates below. Your child’s teacher will work with you to schedule your conference.
- On this schedule, **elementary schools** are defined as programs that serve kindergarten (K) through grade 8, including schools with 3-K and Pre-K programs, as well as those that end in grade 5. **Middle schools** are defined as programs that serve grades 6–8, and **high schools** are defined as programs that serve grades 9–12. **6-12 schools** are defined as programs that serve just grades 6-12 in a single school.

Date	Weekday	Event
<b>September 4</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>First day of school</b>
September 17	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers
September 18	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools
September 23–24	Tuesday–Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah, schools closed
September 25	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
October 2	Thursday	Yom Kippur, schools closed
October 13	Monday	Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples’ Day, schools closed
October 20	Monday	Diwali, schools closed
November 4	Tuesday	Election Day; students do not attend school
November 6	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 11	Tuesday	Veterans Day, schools closed
November 13	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 20	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
November 21	Friday	Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 27–28	Thursday–Friday	Thanksgiving Recess, schools closed

December 24–January 2	Wednesday–Friday	Winter Recess, schools closed
January 19	Monday	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, schools closed
January 20–23	Tuesday–Friday	Regents Administration
January 26	Monday	Professional Development Day; students that attend high schools and schools that serve only grades 6-12 are not in attendance. All other students attend school.
January 27	Tuesday	Spring Semester begins
February 16–20	Monday–Friday	Midwinter Recess, schools closed
March 5	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
March 12	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
March 18	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
March 19	Thursday	Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
March 20	Friday	Eid al-Fitr, schools closed
April 2–10	Thursday–Friday	Spring Recess, schools closed
May 7	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers
May 14	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools
May 21	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
May 25	Monday	Memorial Day, schools closed
May 27	Wednesday	Eid al-Adha; schools closed
June 4	Thursday	Anniversary Day/Chancellor’s Conference Day for staff development; students do not attend school
June 5	Friday	Clerical Day; no classes for students attending 3K, Pre-K, elementary schools, middle schools, K–12 schools, and standalone D75 programs.
June 17–26	Wednesday–Friday	Regents Administration (No exams will be held on June 19)
June 19	Friday	Juneteenth, schools closed
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Last day of school for students</b>

## Cell Phone Policy

Under the updated policy, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, students are not permitted to use personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day. This includes devices such as cell phones, laptops, tablets, and portable music and entertainment systems.

Each school will develop its own written policy regarding the use of electronic devices consistent with the Chancellor's Regulation. These rules will be communicated to parents and students at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. School leadership at schools that share a single campus will coordinate to develop shared policies to be followed by all schools on that campus.



Parents should review these policies carefully and reach out to their child's school principal, parent coordinator, or superintendent with any concerns or questions regarding the device policy and its implementation at their child's school.





# C Y S


## OPEN REC PROGRAM

for kids 6-12 YEARS old

All eligible families are encouraged to register.



**1st and 3rd Friday  
of each month  
4:00-5:30 PM**

  
**Fort Hamilton CYS**  
Building 412,  
Sterling Drive



**Mentorship  
Snacks  
Arts & Crafts  
Games  
Outdoor Activities  
and so much more!**

**Reservations are  
required. Call  
718-630-4518  
to reserve your  
spot!**



# THE GROWING Times

## Welcome to The Growing Times!

We are excited to share the very first edition of The Growing Times, our quarterly newsletter for families and our Fort Hamilton community. Each season, we'll bring you updates from our classrooms, highlights of the children's learning and growth, and news about our staff and programs.

Our goal is to keep you connected to the wonderful things happening here every day- whether it's celebrating new milestones, exploring seasonal activities, or sharing the professional growth of our dedicated staff. Together, we are building strong foundations for children to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community.

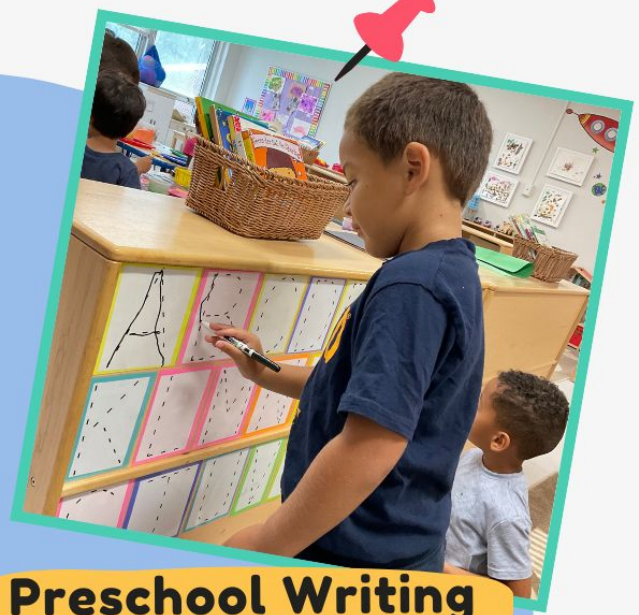


## Infant Adventures

Our infants have been making such exciting progress this summer! Many are busy crawling, scooting, pulling themselves up, and reaching out to explore the world around them. Our pre toddlers are also working hard on their first steps, gaining confidence as they move and discover new things each day. These milestones not only help build strength and coordination with their caregivers and friends. Along with their movement, our pre toddlers have been practicing colors and starting to count up to five- adding fun learning moments to their daily adventures.

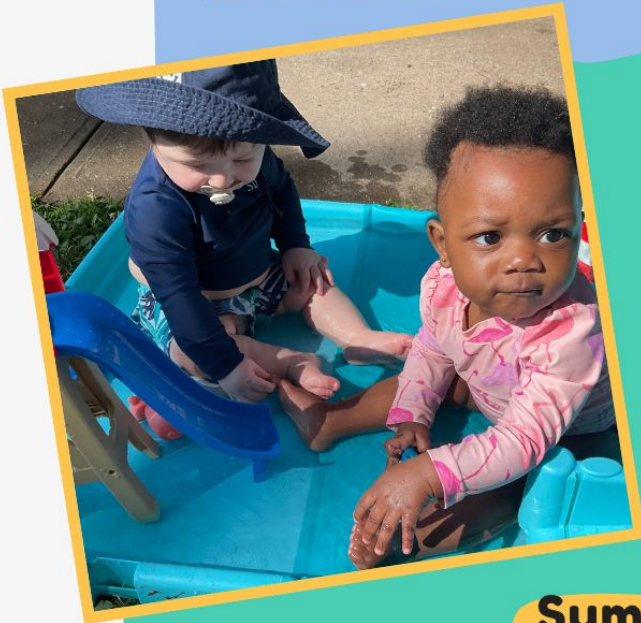
## Toddlers on the move (and Talking!)

This summer, our toddlers have made amazing strides in language development. Through songs, stories, and lots of conversations, they are learning new words, forming short sentences, and expressing their ideas. We are so proud to see them confidently sharing their voices with peers and staff!



## Preschool Writing & Letters

Our preschoolers have been strengthening their early writing skills. With the addition of a new Writing Center, Alphabet Wall, and writing addition to each learning center, children now have a daily opportunity to practice their letters in creative and fun ways. Whether tracing, writing their names, writing in their journals or making their own street signs in block area, our preschoolers are building the foundation for strong literacy skills that will support them in kindergarten and beyond.



## Summer Fun with Water Play!

Nothing says summer like water play! Whether it's sprinklers, water tables, or pouring and measuring with different tools, our children have been fully engaged in cooling off while learning. Water play is more than just fun- it is developmentally appropriate for all ages:

Infants explore cause and effect as they splash and watch water move

Toddlers: practice motor skills while pouring and filling containers.

Preschoolers build math and science using measuring, experimenting, and problem-solving with water. It's hands-on learning at it's best. And who doesn't love splashing Ms. Liz, Ms. Victoria and Ms. Mandy when they come to visit.

### Family Resource:

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/definition>



## Personal Growth & Team Updates

We are excited to share that our program continues to grow in wonderful ways:

One of our staff has graduated with their Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education.

We now have two Leads.

Two of our dedicated staff members are currently working on their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, a professional milestone that demonstrates their commitment to high-quality care and education.



## Preparing for Our NAEYC Accreditation

Our team is also hard at work preparing for our upcoming NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation. This process allows us to demonstrate our commitment to the highest standards of quality in early childhood education. We are proud to showcase the learning, care, and growth happening in our classrooms each day as we work toward this important achievement.

## Fall Event & Things to Remember

- Spirt Week: September
- Pumpkin Decorating Contest: October
- Fall Festival: October
- Friendsgiving: November

**Don't forget to ask how you can get participation points**

**Fall Federal Holidays: Center will be closed**

- Sept. 1: Labor Day
- Oct. 10: Staff Training Day
- Oct. 13: Columbus Day
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 27/28: Thanksgiving

Keep a look out for any updates or changes on our family board located by the front desk.



**Thank you for growing and learning with us!**