

CREATIVE GERMANTOWN INITIATIVE, INC.

ARTS EDUCATION RECREATION

April 21, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for considering The Creative Germantown Initiative CDF Freedom Schools® Program. This is a new initiative that replaces The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown's Summer Day Camp, which operated for more than 20 years. In Summer 2010, we are taking the opportunity to do things differently as we retain the best of day camp, and address pressing academic challenges faced by the children of our community.

Are you aware of the learning loss that takes place in children over the summer? Regarding the return to school in September, a former principal states, "Teachers are spending easily up to six weeks trying to review what had happened in previous years." Also, analysis of the PSSA* individual school's "Report Cards" indicate that Germantown public school students consistently fail to achieve necessary literacy and reading comprehension benchmarks. Freedom School enhances the strengths and provides a well rounded response to the problems faced by children and families in the Germantown Community. By offering this new program, Creative Germantown Initiative is pleased to be part of the solution.

Freedom School (FS) retains Bible study and the cultural, social and recreational components that have made day camp great. This summer's Bible focus is *Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*. Joseph's story of triumph over challenge is a great parallel to our children's ability to thrive despite the challenges they face. Freedom School values parents as cooperative program partners and requires development of community partners and social action. In addition, FS provides enhanced enrichment through the Integrated Reading Curriculum which fosters in children a love for reading and enhances their comprehension. Children in the program will enjoy rich experiences and new opportunities for development and learning.

I am so excited about the program, and believe that, the more you learn about it, the more you'll be excited too! Please review the packet of information, and if this is right for you, register immediately.

Grace and peace,

Eileen A. Jones, Executive Director
CGI CDF Freedom Schools® Program

2010 Creative Germantown Initiative's CDF Freedom Schools Program®

June 28 - August 13

7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Please read this information carefully. Contact Creative Germantown Initiative (CGI) if you have questions, 215-843-8811, ext 814 or visit the CGI website at www.creativegermantown.org.

Highlights

Freedom School is a new seven week program that offers an exciting morning enrichment component using the award winning Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program® curriculum. Children are surrounded by caring adults and college age young adults (classroom ratio of 1:10) who share an enthusiasm for learning and reading and commit to serving children as authentic mentors.

Throughout the seven weeks approximately 56 high quality books, supporting the theme, ***I Can Make a Difference***, will be read and enjoyed, and children will be able to start their own libraries with books they receive to take home. Afternoon program activities include Bible study, exciting assemblies, arts & crafts, dance, music, field trips, swimming and more. Children will also participate in a hands-on approach to problem solving and social action by responding to the feeling "I know what I would do if I could make the big decision."

The program will serve 50 children who have completed grades k through 8. To benefit from all the activities we provide children may arrive at 7:30am and remain until 6pm. Core program activities take place between 8am and 3pm. The cost is affordable and no child will be turned away because of inability to pay.

This is the only CDF Freedom Schools® Program in Philadelphia.

No, this is not summer school, it's much better. It is Freedom School!

About Children's Defense Fund and Freedom Schools Program

The Children's Defense Fund Leaves No Child Behind® mission is *to ensure every child **a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start*** in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF pays particular attention to the needs of the poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® Program is child centered and focuses on children's ability to make a difference. The program is not remedial. It motivates children to excel, strengthens children's feelings of self worth and lets children know that they are loved and valued by caring adults.

Expectations

Attendance:

The program begins Monday, June 28, 2010. The last day is Friday, August 13, 2010. Children are expected to attend daily throughout the full seven weeks. If you can not comply with this expectation perhaps this program is not for you. Please call CGI to discuss questions regarding this requirement.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parents are required to demonstrate commitment by becoming actively involved in the program. Participation in the Pizza fundraiser and volunteer support as a classroom assist, afternoon aid, field trip chaperone etc. is welcomed and expected. A parent or household representative is required to participate in weekly evening workshops that build parent empowerment and family success.

Enrollment

Freedom School requires a 10:1 child, Servant Leader ration. We are restricted to serving twenty Level 1 children, grades K–2, twenty Level 2 children grades 3–5 and ten Level 3 children grades 6–8. With these restraints we anticipate reaching capacity quickly. Register EARLY!!!

Registration

To register, review the enclosed materials. If the program is for you, complete, sign the Parent/Guardian Consent Form, Child Enrollment Form and Medical Information and return them along with your registration fee to CGI located at 35 W Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144. **Enrollment is not confirmed until you receive confirmation from the CGI office. Do not wait until the June 23 parent Orientation meeting to register.**

Parent Orientation Meeting - June 23, at 7:00 PM

This is a very important meeting so mark your calendar and plan to attend! A parent manual is distributed detailing the specifics of Freedom School and it is the time to meet the staff, view your child's learning space tour our facility and receive the camp tee shirt.

Fees

There is a \$45 per child **registration fee due with the application. This fee is non-refundable if your child is enrolled in the program. The weekly full day service fee is \$35.** This fee pays for resources and staff needed for full day service.

Payment Schedule

All fees are due no later than the following dates:

Registration Fee due with application			
Payment 1	\$70	Friday, June 4	(weeks 1 and 2)
Payment 2	\$70	Wed, June 23	(weeks 3 and 4)
Payment 3	\$70	Friday, July 9	(weeks 5 and 6)
Payment 4	\$35	Friday, July 23	(week 7)

All payments must be made in full and by cash or money order—NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Questions regarding billing procedures will be answered at the Parent Orientation Meeting.

2010 Creative Germantown
Initiative's
CDF Freedom Schools®
Program

Parent Orientation Meeting

Wednesday, June 23

7:00 PM

Come and learn details of this new and exciting program.

You will receive a Parent Manual which details policies and practices, view the learning space, meet the staff and receive your child's tee shirt.

Questions? Call CGI, at 215-843-8811, ext 35

Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® Program
2010 Child Enrollment Form

(Please complete one form for each child.)



Name of Site _____

Today's Date _____

Your Name _____

Relationship to this Child

- Parent Legal Guardian Foster Parent
 Grandparent/other relative

Child's Name _____

Child's Date of Birth ____/____/____

Is this child living with you? Yes No

Preferred Name or Nickname _____

Gender Male Female

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/Black, non-Latino
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 Hispanic/Latino
 White, non-Latino
 Other

Type of school

- Public
 Charter School
 Faith-based
 Private

Do any of the children receive free/reduced price lunch at school during the school year?

- Yes
 No

Was the child in special education during the 2009-2010 school year?

- Yes
 No

How many people live in your household?

Has the child ever repeated a grade?

- Yes
 No

How many children live in your household?

Has the child attended a CDF Freedom Schools® program before?

- Yes
 No

Household annual income
\$ _____

Name of school

If yes, how many summers has the child participated in the *CDF Freedom Schools* program (not including the current summer)? _____

Please list other adults authorized to pick up your children:

Name	Relationship	Phone Number
1. _____	_____	(____) ____ - _____
2. _____	_____	(____) ____ - _____
3. _____	_____	(____) ____ - _____

Emergency contact (if parent or guardian cannot be reached):

Name _____ **Relationship to child** _____

Home phone (____) ____ - _____ **Work phone** (____) ____ - _____

Cell phone (____) ____ - _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ **Relationship to child:** _____

Number and Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Occupation _____ Highest grade completed or degree earned _____

Home phone (____) ____ - _____ **Work phone** (____) ____ - _____

Cell phone (____) ____ - _____ **Email** _____

Does the child live with this parent or guardian? Yes No

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ **Relationship to child:** _____

Number and Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Occupation _____ Highest grade completed or degree earned _____

Home phone (____) ____ - _____ **Work phone** (____) ____ - _____

Cell Phone (____) ____ - _____ **Email** _____

Does the child live with this parent or guardian? Yes No

Medical Information

Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that this child has any of the following conditions?

- Asthma
- Hearing problems
- Vision problems
- Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, that is ADD or ADHD
- Depression or anxiety problems
- Behavior or conduct problems
- Bone, joint, or muscle problems
- Diabetes
- Autism
- Any developmental delay or physical impairment
- None

During the past 12 months, have you been told by a doctor or other health professional that this child had any of the following conditions?

- Hay fever or any kind of respiratory allergy
- Any kind of food or digestive allergy
- Eczema or any kind of skin allergy
- Frequent or severe headaches, including migraines
- Stuttering, stammering, or other speech problems
- Three or more ear infections
- None

Please list any allergies:

Does this child currently need or use medicine prescribed by a doctor?

- Yes No

Please list the medication(s):

Is this child limited or prevented in any way in his/her ability to do the things most children of the same age can do?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Has a doctor, health professional, teacher, or school official ever told you that this child has a learning disability?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Has this child been to the doctor for any reason in the last 12 months? Yes No

Has this child been to the dentist in the last 12 months? Yes No

Please provide the following information:

Does this child have health insurance? Yes No

If yes, complete the information below.

Health insurance carrier _____ Name of policy holder _____

Identification number _____ Group number _____

Please explain any special procedures that should be followed in the event of a medical emergency:

How did you hear about this program?

What other enrichment or extra-curricular activities does your child participate in during the year (for example, organized sports, music or dance lessons, academic tutoring, clubs or organizations)?

Parent/Guardian Consent Form

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian's Name), give permission to the Children's Defense Fund ("CDF") and its designees to collect and record data on my child(ren), _____ (Child's or Children's Names). This data gathering may include, but is not restricted to, the following:

- Surveys and/or interviews about his/her/their knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors in regard to his/her/their academic development such as motivation to read; nonacademic development such as leadership and conflict resolution skills; and overall satisfaction with the *CDF Freedom Schools* program.
- Academic assessments and school data from report cards. These will be collected minimally twice: either shortly before the program begins, during the program, or shortly after the program ends.

I understand that the purposes of these surveys and interviews are to document the impact of the *CDF Freedom Schools* program on its participants and to identify areas for improvement. I also understand that this information will remain private, and that only my child(ren)'s site director(s) and research assistants approved by the Children's Defense Fund will be able to look at his/her responses.

I also understand that my child(ren)'s responses will be automatically grouped together with the responses of other *CDF Freedom Schools* sites for any public presentations of findings, and that my child(ren) will not be individually linked to his/her/their responses. In addition, I understand I can take back my permission at any time.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Children's Defense Fund Media Release Form

I hereby authorize and irrevocably grant to the Children's Defense Fund and its affiliates, licensees, agents and assigns the unrestricted right to use and publish any part of the information that I have given to CDF and the right to record my name, voice, appearance, likeness and comments on film, videotape, audiotape, still photographs, print and any other media now known or hereafter invented. I acknowledge that CDF shall own all right, title and interest in and to this media. I further agree that CDF may cause all or parts of this media to be used for any and all publications, exhibitions, public displays, editorials, advertising or other purposes.

I waive any inspection or approval of the media or any advertising or publicity in which my name, voice, appearance, likeness, narrative, or comments might appear. I expressly release and agree to hold harmless CDF and its agents, employees, licensees and assigns from and against any and all claims including, but not limited to, invasion of privacy that I might ever have in any way relating to my interview or its use.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Closing Statement

I hereby certify that the statements in this application are correct and true. I understand that my child(ren)'s enrollment as a *CDF Freedom Schools* student is based, in part, on the information provided within this application and my agreeing to the terms as outlined in writing by the Children's Defense Fund. I authorize the local program sponsor to furnish a copy of this form to the Children's Defense Fund for use in any demographic/longitudinal evaluations that may be developed to strengthen the *CDF Freedom Schools* program nationally.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____