

The Wantagh Foundation for Educational Excellence

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PRESIDENT
Barbara Brochstein

To the Wantagh Community:

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/
SECRETARY**
Gayle Wenchell

After much discussion and with great regret, the Wantagh Foundation for Educational Excellence has made the difficult decision to not operate the Summer Recreation program in 2021.

VICE PRESIDENTS
Patrick Sheeran
Patrick Chin

The Summer Rec program is designed to give Wantagh's children five weeks of fun -- to play closely with their friends in sports, games and other hands-on activities. Due to the health and safety protocols under which Summer Rec would have to operate -- as established by the Centers for Disease Control and other authorities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic -- it would be impossible to create that fun environment for enough children to make the program practical this summer.

TREASURER
Lorraine Johnson

ASS'T TREASURER
Patricia Langdon

TRUSTEES
Austin Costello
Ruth Kupperberg

The protocols would require, among other things: smaller groups (to allow for social distancing, particularly during indoor activities); repeated hand washing; the hiring of more counselors to more closely supervise each group; the elimination of all activities in which items are shared, such as Arts & Crafts; and the elimination of some of the usual external vendors and activities.

HONORARY MEMBER
Fred Parola

These necessary measures and others would be severe barriers to creating the fun environment that has made Summer Rec such a popular program for so many years.

We don't know what the coming months will bring in terms of containing the pandemic, or when things will return to "normal"; of course, we all hope that it happens sooner rather than later. But we would have to start planning for the summer program now, and there's just too much uncertainty for us to sign contracts, hire staff, and go forward with the process.

The Foundation has been committed to serving the needs of Wantagh's children for more than 25 years, and remains so, but only if we can do it in a safe environment.

We welcome your comments on our website and look forward to returning with Summer Rec in 2022.

-The Board of the Wantagh Foundation