

Ross Elementary After School Programming Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Does Ross Elementary offer after care and enrichment programming?

A1: Because Ross is not a Title I School, it is not required by DCPS to offer after care programming. However, Ross partners with the EDCJCC at 16th and Q Streets NW to offer traditional after care and enrichment classes. Families pay for only the days they use and the price is \$18 per day for EDCJCC members and \$21 per day for non-members. Information about the program can be found on the EDCJCC [After School Website](#). Contact Justin Love, Manager of Youth and Camp Programs (justinl@edcjjc.org) with any questions.

Q2: Why does Ross no longer partner with the YMCA for after school programming in addition to the EDCJCC?

A2: Over the past few school years, the majority of Ross families have enrolled at the EDCJCC for after school programming and very few families chose to enroll in the YMCA after-care program on site at Ross. The EDCJCC also offers enrichment programming whereas the YMCA did not. As a result, Principal Searl created and administered a stand-alone enrichment program at Ross. The PTA did not assist in the organization or management of enrichments on site at Ross. Ross is not budgeted for an Assistant Principal or Operations Specialist, and it was not an efficient or effective use of Principal Searl's time to continue to manage three distinct after care programs: the EDCJCC, the YMCA, and multiple enrichment vendors.

Q3: Why isn't the EDCJCC offering After School Programming on site at Ross for 2017-18 as originally planned?

A3: All after school vendors are required to be approved by DCPS and to pay rent and security fees assigned by the DGS Realty Office. This year, security fees increased and the EDCJCC did not budget for the cost. When the YMCA was the after-care vendor on site at Ross, they were required to pay rent. Had the YMCA continued to be the after-care provider for the 2017-18 school year, they would have been required to pay the increased fees and likely would have had to increase the cost of after-care to parents as a result. The EDCJCC is already approved by DCPS as an after-care vendor and is looking for a solution to the budget issue so that they can bring the After School Program back on site at Ross.

Q4: Is traditional after care more expensive at the EDCJCC than it was through the YMCA?

A4: Traditional After School is comparably priced at the EDCJCC when compared to the YMCA. The EDCJCC charges a daily rate, rather than a flat monthly rate, and the actual cost per month for families is not much more than the YMCA was, depending on the number of days in the month. In the average month, there are 17 school days and thus, the average monthly rate is \$306 for members and \$357 for non-members. In 2016, the YMCA charged \$352 per month. The daily rate also means that families whose children do not need after care every day (because they have activities elsewhere on certain days or because parents may not need full time care five days a week) can pay less than they would have at the YMCA with a monthly rate. The EDCJCC's rates are comparable to the YMCA's despite the fact the EDCJCC has a higher ratio of staff to children than the YMCA did: the EDCJCC's ratio is 1 adult to 8 children.

Q5: Why do enrichment classes at the EDCJCC cost more than when they were offered at Ross?

A5: While enrichment costs are somewhat more expensive at the JCC, the “sticker price” of the JCC enrichments is misleading. The cost of an enrichment at the EDCJCC also includes the cost of After School for that day. For example, when a child is enrolled in an enrichment on Wednesdays, the family does not pay daily rate for Traditional After School on Wednesdays (\$18 or \$21, depending on whether the family is a JCC member).

Q6: What options are available for after school programming other than the EDCJCC?

A6: The Keegan Theatre, the National Conservatory of Arts, the Spooky Action Theatre, Fillmore Arts, and the Treehouse Atelier all offer after-school programming in the neighborhood. Most of these also offer pick up from Ross. Please see the Ross website [after school activities page](#) for more information.

Q7: Are the children always inside while at the EDCJCC? My child needs to be outside.

A7: The EDCJCC uses Stead Park at 16th and P Streets (only one block from the JCC) often. Weather permitting, the EDCJCC staff take children to Stead Park 2-3 times per week.

Q8: How much physical activity do the children get at the EDCJCC when they are not able to go to Stead Park?

A8: Lots! The EDCJCC is a very large facility (65,000Sq ft) spread out over 4 floors that has a full-size indoor gym, an indoor swimming pool, squash courts, racquetball courts, and a room called “Motion Commotion” that is a matted room for physical activity. The After School program has daily access to all of these areas and the children get plenty of physical activity. Physical Activity is built in the Traditional After School day. There is a minimum of 45 minutes daily of physical activity. In addition, there is a fitness class with Coach D once a week.

Q9: Is there enough space for all of the Ross children at the EDCJCC? It looks crowded when I come to pick up my child.

A9: The EDCJCC is a very large facility spread out over 4 floors. For the convenience of the families, the EDCJCC staff move all of the children to Classroom 1 and the Library on the first floor for around 5:45pm to prepare for closing time at 6pm. The only time that all of the children are together is for those 15 minutes before pick up. While that last few minutes of the day appear crowded, the children have plenty of space the rest of the time. Go visit the EDCJCC sometime at 4:30pm and see the difference!

Q10: Are the children grouped by age during traditional after school at the EDCJCC? I’m worried about my 3-year-old playing with the much older and larger children.

A10: Children are grouped by age with appropriate staffing. There are three groups according to grade level: (1) PreK3 and PreK4; (2) K-1; and (3) 2nd through 5th grades. At times, PreK3 through 1st grade are together for physical activity, theme week events, art, and community service.