



2026 - 2027 Guidebook

Club Connect Varsity & Junior Varsity

Dates & Rates

Club Connect Varsity

Club Connect Varsity will run on Tuesdays from 3:00 - 5:30 PM beginning September 8, 2026, through June 15, 2027. The member rate is \$187/month and the community participant rate is \$220/month.

Club Connect Junior Varsity

Club Connect Junior Varsity will run on Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:30 PM beginning September 10, 2026, through June 17, 2027. The member rate is \$170/month and the community participant rate is \$200/month.

Payments

Payment for Club Connect programs will be automatically drafted on the first of the month through our Amilia membership billing system from September through June. Any discounts or financial assistance will be applied to your account.

Effective December 1, 2024 all credit card transactions made to the JCC through your JCC account will automatically include a 2.7% service fee. This amount does not exceed the expense the JCC incurs to process these transactions. This service fee will apply to credit card transactions only. This fee cannot be waived and is non-refundable.

In order to avoid the service fee, payment can be made by EFT, debit card, check or cash. If switching to EFT, our system allows you to securely enter your protected bank account information. Our staff can delete payment methods, but never have access to your account details.

All refunds will be in the form of a system credit. System credits can be used for any outstanding balance, future purchase, or donation and are valid for 2 years from the date of

issue. Full system credit will only be given when requested at least 7 days prior to a program start date. After that date credits may be issued for extenuating circumstances only and will be prorated based on the number of classes attended if applicable. Requests made between day 7 and the program start date will incur a \$25.00 administrative fee, if the program costs is less than \$25 no refund will be issued. No credits are given for missed classes. However, as a Community Center we recognize unusual circumstances arise and may be accommodated.

Club Connect Calendar

Club Connect follows the Scotch Plains – Fanwood school district calendar as well as the calendar of the JCC of Central NJ.

Club Connect will not be held on Scotch Plains - Fanwood single session days, if there is an inclement weather day requiring an early dismissal or cancellation of the Scotch Plains – Fanwood school district and/or the JCC of Central NJ. We will notify you with as much lead time as possible if an unexpected closure is required. Snow or emergency weather closings will be emailed and will be posted on the JCC’s website’s scrolling alert.

Activities

Club Connect has a “home base” where participants eat snack and engage in conversations and recreational activities. During Club Connect, participants will rotate throughout the building and outside grounds to participate in a variety of activities. Please note that while our building is ADA compliant, some of our outdoor spaces have uneven surfaces. Please inform us of any mobility accommodations needed for participation.

The format for each week will be predictable and follow a similar routine each session. Variations will occur in the types of activities provided. Participants should dress appropriately to participate in our fitness center including comfortable clothing, socks, and sneakers.

Daily Activities:

- Arrival, snack, and social skills
- Fitness (in the fitness center or outdoors)
- Recreational activities (board and card games, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, community service, swim and more!)
- Daily recap and pack up
- Dismissal

Jewish Learning, Holiday Celebrations and Values

Learning about Jewish traditions, culture and holidays is an integral part of the JCC experience. We foster love of family and community as well as respect and appreciation for others through our Jewish heritage and shared human values. While we honor and appreciate all cultures, religions and backgrounds, and always look forward to hearing about participant's experiences. Please note that we do not celebrate Halloween or Valentine's Day at the JCC. Participants may engage in learning about Jewish culture or traditions through activities.

Snacks

Club Connect provides a daily, dry snack. As a reminder, the JCC is a nut-free facility and follows a Kosher policy, so we do not mix milk and meat products together (ex: no turkey and cheese), permit pork or shellfish products into the facility. If you are sending food or drinks with your child, please send snacks that meet our agency policies and inform us of any allergy concerns when completing your program intake.

Participants should bring a water bottle with them each week. We have contactless fill stations available around the JCC to help everyone stay hydrated.

If participants want to purchase a drink or snack from our in-house café, they should do this either before or after Club Connect and with a parent and/or guardian if supervision is needed for money management.

Transportation

Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from Club Connect. If your child is eligible for district bussing through your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or based on distance, please contact your district transportation office or case manager to arrange for transportation to the JCC. Please note that some districts only bus to locations within their own town.

Arrival & Dismissal

Participants should arrive to the lobby of the JCC at 3:00 PM for Varsity and 3:30 PM for Junior Varsity and check in at the membership desk. All member and non-member participants coming to the JCC on a weekly basis will set up an account in our Amilia membership system which must be used to check in at each visit. Our staff are not available to supervise in the lobby before this time.

Participants will be dismissed from the benches near the parking lot at 5:00 PM for Junior Varsity and 5:30 PM for Varsity. In the case of inclement weather, parents/guardians or designated individuals can enter the lobby to pick up their child.

Reporting an Absence or Change to Arrival/Dismissal

If your child will not be attending Club Connect for any reason and/or there is a change to their regular arrival or dismissal procedure, please contact us before 2:00 PM via email at inclusion@jccnj.org so that we can accommodate.

Communicable Disease Protocols and Procedures

Sanitization

Our Operations and Facilities Department has established sanitization protocols and procedures based on regulatory guidelines. All JCC facilities will be sanitized on regular schedules by trained staff who are supervised by shift supervisors responsible for overseeing all cleaning and disinfection. All HVAC system filters meet CDC guidelines.

Communicable Disease Policy

If your child has any symptoms of any illness, please notify us as soon as possible, within 24 hours. Any diagnosed communicable disease is particularly important to report as we notify exposed groups. Club Connect participants should stay home until they are symptom-free, are fever-free (fever is considered 100.4°F or above) for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, are able to participate fully in school activities and have medical clearance from a doctor. If you have any questions about when a doctor's note is required, please contact us. See the following for Club Connect requirements for some specific illnesses/conditions. Please note that we maintain the right to adjust policy based on community levels of illness and the safety of our participants and staff.

Bacterial Illness

If a participant requires antibiotic treatment for bacterial illness (e.g., Conjunctivitis, Strep Throat) they must be on their treatment for at least 24 hours prior to returning to Club Connect.

Gastrointestinal Illness

Diarrhea and/or vomiting requires a 24-hour exclusion period.

Lice

If at any point during the school year you find or suspect any evidence of lice or itching on the head/scalp/neck, please call the health office immediately at (908) 889-8800 x273. Club Connect policy requires that a child be kept home 24 hours for treatment and have no Nits upon returning to Club Connect.

Skin Abnormality and/or Rash

A note signed by the child's healthcare provider is also required for any skin abnormality and/or rash (e.g., Molluscum, Coxsackie). The note must include the diagnosis, plan of care (e.g., medicines, cream, ointments used in school and/or at home) and whether or not the condition is contagious. If contagious, we will also need to know when the condition is no longer contagious. Any open lesions or blisters must be scabbed and healing prior to return.

Wellness and Participation

If your child is not well enough to attend school or is sent home from school early due to illness, they should not attend Club Connect that day. If your child becomes injured or is feeling unwell during Club Connect, a JCC staff member will contact you.

Medications

The JCC will not administer over the counter or prescription medications during Club Connect, except for rescue medications. If your child requires rescue medications while at the JCC, a doctor's note and care plan will be required.

Accident or Injury

Our healthcare team and Club Connect staff will carefully and thoughtfully assess all medical emergencies and respond accordingly to ensure the health and safety of all participants. If there is a medical emergency, parents/guardians and/or emergency contacts are always notified.

Should an accident or serious injury occur while at the JCC, JCC members are covered by a group accidental medical program. This coverage is to be used as secondary insurance to a member's primary health coverage. Should you need to file a claim, please contact Audra Negri, Director of Risk Management at anegri@jccnj.org or call 908-889-8800 ext. 202 to obtain the necessary forms and information to initiate the claim process.

Internet and Phone Policy

Phones and devices should be put away during Club Connect because the program focuses on engagement and building social skills. Participants are permitted to use phones to text or call parents at arrival and/or dismissal.

We will do our best to help participants keep track of their personal belongings. The JCC is not responsible for lost or stolen articles in the locker rooms, fitness center, gym, pool, etc. Please avoid sending items of high value.

Positive Participation & Accommodations

Club Connect is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every participant has the opportunity to be successful. We believe that children are most successful when families and staff work together to identify accommodations that promote meaningful participation.

Our staff use positive reinforcement, routines, and other strategies to encourage expected behaviors and support positive participation. While we are committed to creating a modified program that offers seamless accommodations, Club Connect is a recreational program and is not a therapeutic or behavior intervention program designed to provide intensive behavior management or behavior modification services.

When concerns arise, our first priority is to work collaboratively with families to better understand the participant's needs, identify effective accommodations, and determine whether additional accommodations may help the participant be successful in the community setting. We value open communication and believe that early collaboration leads to the best outcomes.

If, despite accommodations and collaborative planning, a participant is unable to participate safely or successfully, Club Connect may determine that dedicated 1:1 support is necessary for continued participation. Families are responsible for arranging and funding any required 1:1 support staff. All 1:1 support personnel must complete and meet JCC onboarding requirements before providing services within the program. The onboarding process can take up to 45 business days to complete depending on the turnaround time of the state agencies completing the inquiries.

In situations where a participant's behavior continues to present a significant safety concern for themselves or others, substantially disrupts the program, or cannot be appropriately supported within the scope of Club Connect, JCC staff may determine that the participant is not currently able to participate in the program. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Director of Inclusion and Diversity after careful consideration of the participant's needs, the effectiveness of supports provided, and the safety and well-being of all participants and staff.

Behaviors that may prompt a discussion regarding additional supports or continued program participation include, but are not limited to:

- Elopement (leaving the group or designated program area)
- Physical aggression toward self, other participants, or staff

- Repeated disruption of group activities that significantly interferes with the positive participation of others
- Repeated refusal to follow staff directions
- Repeated use of profanity, vulgar language, or verbally abusive behavior toward others
- Stealing, vandalism, or intentional damage to property
- Bringing a weapon or threatening to use a weapon of any kind
- Bringing, possessing, or using illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products
- Overt sexual behaviors involving self, other participants, or staff
- Inappropriate use of technology or social media that compromises the safety, privacy, or well-being of participants or staff

Our shared goal is to help every participant succeed. By working together and providing appropriate supports, we strive to create a positive, safe, and inclusive experience for participants.

Reporting Abuse and/or Neglect

Professionals working with children are mandated to report signs of abuse and/or neglect, and are required by law to report cases to the appropriate state authorities if they have reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child is suffering from abuse or neglect or is in danger of abuse and neglect. The JCC will cooperate fully with any investigation and will maintain confidentiality concerning any report of child abuse or neglect. Our concern is always the protection of the child.

Questions? Contact Us!

Beth Mitchell, M.A. CCC-SLP, ASDCS

Director of Inclusion & Diversity

bmitchell@jccnj.org

(908) 889-8800 x203

General Inquiries: inclusion@jccnj.org