

CARES

EARLY CHILDHOOD / PRE-K

CARES

Introduction

It is integral for our schools to provide a CARES program especially during the current circumstances. For many of our students, this will be their first re-entry into the school setting. CARES is an offshoot of the regular school day; thus, all procedures in place for the school will be adhered to during the CARES program.

Philosophy

It is paramount that we provide a safe, healthy and sanitized environment for those students entrusted to our care before and after regular school hours. It is important to engage these students in a social setting which they have not experienced in months and to provide a pleasant atmosphere for them. We are the protectors and providers for these students during the hours they are entrusted to us.

Process

1. Social and safe-distancing practices will be observed as much as possible. When able, the cohort model will be kept within the CARES program. Students will be kept with the same adult monitor in the program.
2. Outside visitors will not be allowed to enter the area where the CARES program is being held. Children will be met at the school door both entering and leaving the building.
3. Students are responsible for providing their own snack and beverage during their time in CARES. There will be no snack sharing.
4. All employees and volunteers will follow the same health checklist practices as school employees.
5. All operational guidelines put into place in the school (e.g. movement through the building, recess, etc.) will be practiced during CARES sessions.
6. CARES students will be called to the CARES room after all other lines are dismissed.
7. Materials used by CARES students on a regular basis will be sanitized daily.
8. Monitored hand washing and sanitizing will be done on a regular basis.
9. We will follow the Playbook recommendations for any suspected illness.
10. The CARES program will comply with any emergency actions and resulting decisions that occur during the school day.

Checklist

- Maintain accurate records for CARES students with easy access to the program director. This would include attendance records
- Establish a schedule and routine limiting the crossover of cohorts during CARES sessions.
- In keeping with Catholic Identity practices, every CARES session should begin with a prayer.
- Establish a safe place for the students' materials and personal belongings such as schoolbags, hats, gloves, lunch boxes and jackets that provides safe distancing from other student belongings.
- Insure that students are not sharing materials. (e.g. crayons, pencils, markers).
- Provide opportunities for planned activities for student engagement.
- All employees need to be apprised of the Standards for CARES and identified in the CARES Handbook as well as the Standards put in place by the CSO Task Force and the Standards for Ministerial Behavior.
- Any person serving as a substitute for a CARES employee needs to be apprised of the standards identified above and agree to adhering to them.
- Proper notification to a CARES designee of students who will be missing (e.g. left school early) or who have a special circumstance (e.g. crutches) during a CARES session would be beneficial.

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Introduction

The need for careful strategic planning has become a reality in the “new-normal” circumstances including the pandemic-related quarantines. Physical presence in the classroom allows time for students to develop spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. Care needs to be taken so that they are safe and learning in a healthy environment. This guidance is for situations in which students below the first grade are enrolled.

Philosophy

Students and their families should be provided with safe, quality, Catholic childcare in our schools and Early Learning Centers. Educators need to nurture a sense of community, curiosity and a love of learning at these beginning levels. Freedom from anxiety and a sense of happiness should permeate the students’ learning experience.

Process

Specific protocols for the Pre-K Program are still in the development stage. These will be posted separately and shortly.