

CARE for Kids

CARE for Kids is a comprehensive approach to create supportive learning communities in our schools, and to address the academic, social, emotional, and ethical needs of our students. This approach helps students develop social responsibility and positive relationships with both adults and other classmates. It embeds proactive social and emotional learning strategies in all academic classes throughout the day.

CARE for Kids builds on the work of several leading educators and organizations, including: the Developmental Studies Center, Origins, the Northeast Foundation for Children, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), William Glasser, CHAMPS/Foundations, Marzano, Harry Wong, and Jonathan Erwin. CARE for Kids is unique in that it incorporates ideas and effective practices from other programs, and continues to be adjusted and refined as new information is identified and our needs change.

Focus of CARE for Kids Principles

1. The 1st principle is about building community through respectful, supportive relationships. Trust among adults, between adults and students and between students and students, is a fundamental necessity for academic and social success. Some classroom examples - students being greeted by the teacher, morning meetings, the use of respectful language, and the use of inclusive language e.g., we, ours, us vs I, mine, me.
2. The 2nd principle is about social, emotional and ethical learning which is as important to success as academic learning. We are not born with skills like knowing how to be fair, helpful, kind, and responsible, like reading these skills must be taught, modeled, and reinforced.
3. The 3rd principle is about engaged learning through exploration, discovery, inquiry, and application and students learning best by constructing their own knowledge. Examples of this can be found in our literacy, math, and science programs where students are engaged through exploration, discovery, inquiry, and application, and have opportunities to express their thinking in multiple ways - writing, pictures, graphs, diagrams, drama.
4. Principle 4 is about giving students choice, voice, and responsible independence for the common good. Classroom examples: development of classroom norms, input from students about what and how content is taught and assessed, and problem solving class meetings. Students are committed to the decisions they help make & feel responsible for their classroom community.
5. Principle 5 is about collaboration and service to others. The greatest cognitive growth happens through social interaction within a supportive community. In the classroom you would see students working with a partner or in small groups, helping each other or participating in service projects.
6. Principle #6 is about developing intrinsic motivation vs the use of extrinsic motivation - students learning how to exercise self-control, act responsibly and appropriately address their feelings and needs. Although some students may need extrinsic motivation from time to time, the goal is to move students to acting responsible without the use of extrinsic motivation.

Although there are six separate principles, in practice they are both interdependent and interrelated. For example when you work in small groups you are building relationship and giving voice and choice to students. CARE for Kids is not about a program, these principles penetrate every aspect of school including all curricular programs and life outside of school.

Components include:

- Morning Meeting/CARE Circle
- Class meetings
- Developmental discipline
- Cultural Competence training
- Buddies program/Cross-age mentoring
- School-wide community building activities
- Home-school activities
- Service Learning
- School-based CARE Leadership Team

CARE for Kids Additional Supports

- CARE Teacher Leads
- Administrative staff PD
- Consulting Support
- Resource Teacher Support
- Monthly Middle School Newsletter
- JCPS Online - resources, discussion
- Content specific staff PD & support
- New Teacher Induction PD
- Substitutes PD
- PTA PD
- Bus Drivers PD
- Community Organizations PD (e.g., Girl/Boy Scouts, SPAVACLOUT)