



# **C.A.R.E.S. for your Community**

Innovation Elementary School  
Exemplary Project



## **Project purpose:**

**To engage students in using creativity, collaboration, and innovation to identify and solve a community problem.**



# **Desired outcomes**

**Academic success  
for all students**

**Opportunities for  
innovative thinking**

**Foster creativity,  
cooperation,  
compassion,  
curiosity**

**Support application  
of C.A.R.E.S to the  
community**





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Innovation, advocacy,  
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# 01 Service Learning

Program core:  
Schoolwide & classroom based service  
projects

# Classrooms will choose a community to impact

- Classroom
- School
- Local community



# **Classrooms will choose an issue/problem to address**

- What is the problem?
- Why does it exist?
- What might be an innovative way to address it?



# **Classrooms will develop a service learning plan over the course of the school year**

- Creativity
- Cooperation
- Innovation
- Advocacy

\*the complexity of this plan would vary based on the developmental level of students





# More details

- **Grade Level Classrooms**

- Each homeroom class will **identify 1 project** they will work on **over the course of the year**
  - PreK-2 - more adult support, more concrete project
  - 3-5 - more student agency, more complex project
  - Classes will **commit** to their project **by the end of October**
  - Classes will **complete** their project by **June**
  - Staff provide structure for process, including benchmarks

- **Specials (Art, PE, Music, Library) Teams**

- Each specials subject will identify a separate project they will incorporate across grade levels
- Their project may impact the school or local community

# More details (grade level projects)

- Grade levels will create an action plan for the project they choose. Action plan will be submitted by end of October.
- PreK-2 Action plan will include:
  - Goal of the project
  - Identify community intending to impact
  - Plan for executing project
  - Needed materials/resources
- 3-5 Action plan will include:
  - Goal of the project
  - Identify community intending to impact
  - Action steps
  - Timeline for completing steps
  - Needed materials/resources
  - Budget for needed materials/resources

# 02

## What is C.A.R.E.S.?

- C.A.R.E.S. is the social-emotional learning framework used at Innovation.
- The competencies are assessed on our Standards Based Report Cards
- It is a component of Responsive Classroom



# C.A.R.E.S. Competencies

**C**

## **Cooperation**

I can work with others.

**A**

## **Assertion**

I can speak up for myself and others.

**R**

## **Responsibility**

I can make strong choices.

**E**

## **Empathy**

I can understand others' feelings.

**S**

## **Self-control**

I can pause and think about my choices before I speak and act.



# What we already do to teach and reinforce C.A.R.E.S.

- Morning Meeting
- Classroom hopes and dreams
- Interactive modeling
- Collaborative learning
- C.A.R.E.S. expectations for different types of learning spaces
- Buddy classrooms



# Ways we show C.A.R.E.S. everyday

- **Examples:**

- Showing **Cooperation** by identifying a problem in the classroom and working together to come up with a solution during morning meeting
- Showing **Assertion** by looking for someone who needs someone to play with at recess
- Showing **Empathy** by being patient during the Number Sense routine, recognizing that everyone needs different time to think and learn
- Showing **Responsibility** by focusing on recycling any paper we might throw in the trash this week
- Showing **Self-control** by letting someone else go first today



# How we can connect service learning to the application of C.A.R.E.S

- Opportunities to demonstrate the competencies in real world situations
- Student agency in choosing projects that demonstrate the competencies
- Building concrete understandings of the competencies year over year
- Strengthening understanding of how C.A.R.E.S. applies to our larger community



# **03** What could this look like for students?

Innovation, advocacy, compassion





# Ways a classroom could apply C.A.R.E.S. to solve a problem in the school (3rd-5th examples)

- Showing **Cooperation** by creating a Morning Meeting video series to improve the recycling efforts of the whole school
- Showing **Assertion** by creating a lunchtime program where students sit with new friends and learn more about each other in order to develop stronger community
- Showing **Responsibility** to improve our school grounds by creating a school wide scheduling system for grade levels to sign up for times to support grounds clean up and beautification



# Ways a classroom could apply C.A.R.E.S. to solve a problem in the school (preK-2 examples)

- Showing **Cooperation** by partnering with another classroom to lead Morning Meetings
- Showing **Assertion** by looking for a student who needs someone to play with at recess
- Showing **Responsibility** to improve our school grounds by planting and maintaining a portion of flower bed
- Showing **Empathy** by making informational videos for younger students or a local retirement community



# Ways a classroom could apply C.A.R.E.S. to solve a problem in the community (3rd - 5th examples)

- Showing **Cooperation** by working together to collect donations for a local organization throughout the year
- Showing **Assertion** by creating an advertising campaign to promote safe driving along N Veitch St
- Showing **Responsibility** by working with local businesses to organize a career day for high demand careers
- Showing **Empathy** by starting a program to bring VR to a retirement community allowing residents to see the world without traveling



# 04 Implementation

How will we grow our exemplary project?

# Project Kick Off: Day of Service

- Schoolwide assembly
- All classes will select one project to complete on the “Day of Service”

Make cards for local firefighters	Beautify your grade level learning pod	Make a kindness bulletin board with your class	Write cards to thank a veteran	Make placemats for local assisted living homes
Pick up trash on the playground	Make a banner to encourage others to follow C.A.R.E.S.	Make cards for local police officers	Help the art teachers, librarian, or PE teachers organize materials	Make placemats for Meals on Wheels
Draw a picture for seniors at the local senior center	Collect milk cartons or bottles at lunch to recycle	Pick up trash in the parking lot	Make posters to help students know what to recycle at lunch	Make posters to remind everyone to recycle
Make posters to put up in school with reminders about C.A.R.E.S.	Pull weeds in the garden at Innovation	Book buddies with a younger grade level class	Help Mr. Keenan clean up after your grade level's lunch	Make cards for the nurses and doctors at Virginia Hospital




# Engaging students to lead

C.A.R.E.S. Committee (5th graders and staff)

- Promote C.A.R.E.S. competencies
- Generate school wide service learning opportunities
- Brainstorm ways to build the C.A.R.E.S. for your Community program over time

Classrooms

- Generate ideas for class project
  - Engage in service learning
  - Complete the project
- 

# Year 1

Month	Activity
September	Day of Service - whole school assembly & service opportunities
End of October	Each class identifies service project to solve their identified community problem
October-June	Classes complete identified service projects
September, December, April	All School Reads - to support project development and momentum Sept: Claire & Kathryn to read at assembly Dec: Each class reads identified book on specific day April: Each class reads identified book on specific day
February	Food Drive for AFAC - run by C.A.R.E.S. committee
May/June	Opportunity to present finished projects (grades 3-5)

# Year 2 and Beyond

- Continue commitments from Year 1
- Build partnerships with local organizations
  - Guest speakers
  - Idea generation
  - Support for project development
- Add additional All School Reads - could do one a quarter or one each month
- Add more school wide service learning opportunities
- Add a 5th grade capstone project that synthesizes multi-year learning



# Budget

Exemplary Project Coordinator	\$90,000/year
Stipend for C.A.R.E.S. committee chair	\$3200/year
Money for service project materials	\$3000/year
Books for all school reads	\$1500/year
CARES Committee operating budget	\$700/year



# Evaluation

- Student success
  - SOL scores
  - C.A.R.E.S. Competencies
- Student Well-being
  - Your Voice Matters Survey
  - Social-emotional Learning Survey