



RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

“A practical approach to creating safe, challenging and joyful elementary schools.”

The Traver Road staff works together to model and teach a set of social skills to help children be academically and socially successful. We use the acronym C.A.R.E.S. (cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control) to help the children understand prosocial skills. Everyone at Traver gets together for a school meeting once a month. We greet each other and students and teachers share an activity, work, song, or a skit with the rest of the school. It is at this time that we teach and practice our social skills school wide. This helps to build a strong sense of community within the school. Together the staff and students are a group of responsible and respectful educators and learners.



Guiding Principles:

- The social curriculum and academic curriculum are equally important.
- HOW children learn is just as important as WHAT they learn.
- Cognitive growth happens through social interaction.
- Learning social skills will help children become more successful academically and socially.
- Knowing the child in all areas is as important as knowing the content of what we teach.
- Working with families as partners is a vital component to a child's education.
- Having a unified adult staff within a school will provide a positive learning environment for all children.



Teaching Practices:

Morning Meeting: This is a daily event. The meeting helps to create a community within the classroom. It establishes a positive learning environment. This is also a time to reinforce both social and academic skills. Morning meeting is about 15-20 minutes long.

Rules and Logical Consequences: This is a clear and positive discipline approach. We teach the children to be responsible for their behaviors and to maintain self-control.

Guided Discovery: This is a time in which the teacher instructs the students about how to care for the materials in the classroom, e.g., how to use materials, share materials, explore materials, and clean up materials.

Academic Choice: Students learn in different ways. Academic choice allows students to choose a learning style that works best for them. The students take ownership for their success.

Classroom Organization: Teachers arrange furniture and materials in their classroom to promote independence as well as a safe and caring community.

Working with Families: Traver encourages open lines of communication between educators and families. Teachers regularly correspond with families and invite them into the classroom communities.



What we have learned

Responsive Classroom guides in our efforts to make Traver Road the safe and respectful learning environment that it is. Together the staff at Traver works hard with the same thing in mind...our children. We have created classrooms in which children are comfortable and safe. They respect themselves as well as their peers, teachers, and school materials.

