

Crystal Lake School CARES

One of the tenets of the Responsive Classroom approach to elementary teaching is that the social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum. In order for students to be successful academically, they must be taught and be given opportunities to practice certain social skills: Cooperation, Advocacy, Respect, Empathy and Self-Control. At Crystal Lake School we have defined these skills for students in the following way:

Cooperation: Working together to achieve a common goal.

Advocacy: sticking up for yourself or others by using your kind words/helping someone who needs help

Respect: be thoughtful, be considerate, be polite

Empathy: show someone you know how they feel; think about how what you do affects other people

Self-Control: take a deep breathe and think before you act, make smart choices

Teachers are designing lesson to explicitly teach these skills and students are given opportunities in Morning Meetings and throughout the day to practice them.