

C.A.R.R.S Academy
Parent Handbook
2025-2026 School Year



Creating Academically Resilient and Reflective Students

1026 E Worthy Street Suite E & F

Gonzales, LA 70737

225-647-3819

Chasity Carr, Principal/Founder

Mission Statement

CARRS Academy is dedicated to equipping students with essential academic tools that foster lifelong skills. Our focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) empowers students to become college and career-ready individuals. We strive to create a conducive learning environment where students can explore their interests, enhance their knowledge, and develop the competencies necessary for future success.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to cultivate a community of motivated learners who embrace curiosity and creativity. We envision a world where every student is equipped not just academically, but also socially and emotionally, allowing them to navigate and thrive in an ever-evolving landscape. By fostering collaboration and innovation, we aim to inspire the next generation of leaders who will contribute positively to society.

Grades Taught

CARRS Academy serves students from PreK through 8th grade, providing a comprehensive education that meets the needs of all learners.

Carrs Academy Little Scholars PreK4-K (Early Childhood Program)

1. Holistic Development: Foster emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development in children through a well-rounded curriculum.
2. Social Skills: Encourage positive interactions among peers, teaching sharing, cooperation, and conflict resolution.
3. Language and Literacy: Promote early literacy skills through storytelling, reading activities, and language-rich interactions.
4. Creative Expression: Provide opportunities for creative expression through arts, music, and imaginative play.
5. Critical Thinking: Develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on activities and exploratory learning.
6. Physical Development: Enhance gross and fine motor skills through structured physical activities and play.
7. Cultural Awareness: Introduce children to diverse cultures and perspectives, fostering respect and appreciation for differences.

8. Parental Engagement: Strengthen partnerships with families by involving them in the learning process and providing resources for home support.

9. Safe Learning Environment: Create a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment that promotes exploration and learning.

10. Assessment and Growth: Implement ongoing assessment strategies to monitor children's progress and adapt learning experiences to meet their individual needs.

Carrs Academy Prep (1st-2nd Grade)

In the lower elementary grades, our curriculum is designed to provide a solid foundation in essential skills through engaging and interactive methods:

- IXL: Used for all core subjects, allowing students to practice and master key concepts at their own pace.

- Hands-On Manipulatives: Students utilize various hands-on materials to enhance their learning experience and solidify their understanding of mathematical and scientific concepts.

- Primary Phonics: This program is implemented for reading interventions, helping students develop strong reading skills through systematic phonics instruction.

- Financial Literacy- Provided from Pelican Credit Union Quarterly

- Music: Students can learn and appreciate music through various programs, including vocal and instrumental instruction.

- Art Class: A creative outlet where students explore different artistic mediums and techniques.

- STEM Class: Focused on enhancing skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through hands-on projects and experiments.

Carrs Academy Collegiate (3rd through 8th Grade)

For students in grades 3-8, Carrs Academy offers a robust curriculum through the Acellus Accredited program, which includes: **Fully Accredited – Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC)**

Acellus Academy is Fully Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges – a regional accreditation agency.

- Comprehensive Online Learning: Students engage with a diverse range of subjects through an accredited online platform that supports personalized learning paths.

- Up to 6 courses at a time
- Choose from hundreds of course options
- Study at your own pace, courses available 24 hours per day
- Receive credits towards an accredited high school diploma
- Vectored Instruction
- Acellus Writing Tutor
- Lessons in high-definition
- Acellus Classmates

- Extracurricular Activities- Carrs Academy believes in the importance of a well-rounded education and offers a variety of extracurricular activities for students:

- Financial Literacy Course: An engaging program that teaches students essential money management skills.

- Beta Club: A service organization that promotes academic achievement, leadership, and community service. (4th-8th grade only)

- Music: Students can learn and appreciate music through various programs, including vocal and instrumental instruction.

- Art Class: A creative outlet where students explore different artistic mediums and techniques.

- STEM Class: Focused on enhancing skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through hands-on projects and experiments.

- Public Speaking: A course designed to build confidence and communication skills in students.

- Book Club: A collaborative space for students to discuss literature and foster a love for reading.

- Hands-On Learning in STEAM: At Carrs Academy, we believe that education should be experiential and engaging. Our curriculum is designed to integrate hands-on projects, real-world applications, and collaborative learning opportunities. Students will participate in workshops, labs, and field trips that enhance their understanding of STEAM concepts and encourage them to explore their interests in these fields.

Uniform Policies

To promote a sense of community and professionalism, Carrs Academy requires students to adhere to the following uniform policy:

Free Dress will only be allowed on Fridays for this school year and it must be appropriate dress or students will be sent home to change.

- **Uniform Attire PK4-2nd:** All students must wear a designated school uniform, which includes a polo shirt with the school logo, khaki or navy pants/shorts or CARRS plaid, and closed-toe shoes. No crocs, or sandals allowed except on free dress days. Jackets and Sweaters must be school colors-black, grey, or red and may or may not have the logo on them. **Spirit shirts can only be worn on Fridays for spirit day. The rest of the week students must have on a school logo polo or button up style shirt.**

- **Upper grades 3rd-8th Boys:** Black blazer or Black sweater vest with CARRS logo, white button up shirt, black or khaki pants/shorts. Boys may accessorize with a Plaid tie from our school issued plaid-but that is optional.

- **Upper grades 3rd-8th Girls:** Black blazer or Black sweater vest with CARRS logo, white button up shirt, black or khaki pants/shorts, Plaid skirt can be purchased from our school issued PLAID or khaki or black skirt (Uniform regulation only). Shorts must be worn under skirts. Knee high socks may be worn-but is optional.

Accessories: Students may wear accessories that comply with the school's dress code, such as belts and hair clips, but should avoid distracting items. -

Uniform Maintenance: Students are expected to wear clean and neatly maintained uniforms.

Sick Policies -To ensure the health and well-being of all students, Carrs Academy has implemented the following sick policies:

- **Reporting Absences:** Parents must notify the school by 8:00 AM if their child is unable to attend due to illness.

- **Returning to School:** Students may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. If a student has been diagnosed with a contagious illness, a doctor's note may be required for readmission.

- **Makeup Work:** Students who are absent due to illness will be given the opportunity to complete missed assignments upon their return.

- **Absences:**

Regular attendance is crucial for academic success. The following guidelines pertain to absences:

- **Excused Absences:** Absences due to illness, family emergencies, or other valid reasons will be considered excused. Documentation may be required.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Any absence not falling under the excused category will be considered unexcused and may affect a student's academic standing.

Birthday Parties

-Students may celebrate their birthdays at school with their class. Procedure:

- Notify teacher that you want to send snacks
- Teacher will arrange time
- If passing out party invites you must provide enough for each classmate or do not send invites to school.

Discipline Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this discipline policy is to create a positive learning environment that fosters respect, responsibility, and academic excellence. This policy aligns with the principles of Class Dojo to promote constructive behavior and effective communication between students, teachers, and parents.

-Core Values:

1. Respect - Treating others with kindness and consideration.
2. Responsibility - Taking ownership of one's actions and their consequences.
3. Integrity - Upholding honesty and strong moral principles in all situations.

-Behavior Expectations:

Students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors in all school settings:

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Respect personal space and property of others.
- Use appropriate language and voice levels.
- Exhibit a willingness to participate and engage in learning activities.

-Incentives:

To encourage positive behavior, Carrs Academy will implement a points system through Class Dojo:

-Positive Behavior Points: Students can earn points for demonstrating expected behaviors. Points can be awarded for:

- Following instructions.
- Helping classmates.
- Completing assignments on time.
- Participating actively in class discussions.

Class Dojo Rewards: Accumulated points can be redeemed for privileges or rewards such as:

- Homework passes.
- Dojo Bashes.
- Special recognition in school assemblies.

Consequences for Misbehavior:

While we aim to encourage positive behavior, it is also essential to address misbehavior appropriately. The following steps outline the consequences for not meeting behavior expectations:

1. Verbal Warning: The first instance of misbehavior will result in a verbal warning.
2. Reflection Time: The second instance will require the student to take reflection time to think about their actions.
3. Classroom Consequence: If misbehavior continues, a more formal consequence may be assigned (e.g., loss of privileges, additional reflection time).
4. Parent Contact: For repeated offenses, parents will be contacted to discuss the behavior and collaborate on solutions.
5. Referral: Severe or persistent misbehavior may result in a referral to the school administration for further action.

Communication with Parents: Regular updates on student behavior will be communicated to parents through Class Dojo. Parents are encouraged to engage in discussions about behavior expectations and reinforce positive behaviors at home.

Review and Adjustments: This policy will be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed based on feedback from students, staff, and parents to ensure it remains effective and relevant. By working together, we can create a supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. Thank you for your cooperation and support in upholding the Carrs Academy discipline policy.

Tuition Policies

Purpose: This Tuition Payment Policy outlines the payment structure for monthly, semi-annual, and full tuition at Carrs Academy, ensuring clarity and consistency for all families.

Payment Schedule:

1. **Monthly Tuition Payments:** - All monthly tuition payments are due on the 1st of every month. Payments must be received by this date to avoid late fees.

2. **Semi-Annual Tuition Payments:**

- Semi-annual payments are due on:

- June 1
- December 1

3. **Full Tuition Payment:** The full tuition payment for the academic year is due by:

- June 1

Late Payment Fees:

- A late payment fee of \$25 per day will be assessed for any tuition payments not received by the due date. This fee will continue to accrue until the payment is made in full.

Additional Fees: This policy applies only to tuition payments and does not include registration fees or activity fees, which are separate and due at the specified times.

Payment Methods: Payments can be made through the following methods:

- Online payment portal
- Check

- Bank transfer

Communication: Families will receive reminders regarding upcoming payment due dates through email and the school's communication platform.

Review and Adjustments: Carrs Academy reserves the right to review and adjust the Tuition Payment Policy as necessary. Any changes will be communicated to families in advance. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in adhering to this Tuition Payment Policy, which helps ensure the continued success and operation of Carrs Academy.