



Care Groups to Support Christian Schools

By Dr. Mark Taylor, Christian School and College/University Representative

A couple of years ago, another church member and I started a group from our church to support the teachers and staff of our Christian school. We call ourselves the NCCS (North County Christian School) Care Group.

Get a Care Group Started

To start our group, we set up a time to meet with our school superintendent to share some ideas about our plan. We also looked for needs and ways we could provide support. Our superintendent welcomed the support. We agreed that my co-NCCS Cares group leader would be our communication liaison so that there would be a designated person to primarily communicate with the school.

After meeting with our superintendent, we started contacting church members we thought would be interested in being a part of the care group. We started with 13 members and are now up to 19 members and growing.

Care Group Meetings

We have sponsored an annual cookout meeting for families to fellowship, plan for the year, and pray. This usually occurs sometime in June. During the rest of the year, our care group meets as needed.

Activities:

Here is a list of activities we have done or plan to do this coming school year. Different individuals from our group plan and facilitate each of the activities.

- Provide treats for parent-student orientation events.
- Send cards to faculty and staff with notes of encouragement every other month.
- Prepare continental breakfast during teacher orientation.
- Assemble wish list from teachers and staff for items they could use. The group gives these lists to our congregation to donate.
- Host coffee and prayer drive-thru event. We do this once in the fall and once in the spring in the school parking lot. We give out coffee and snacks. We take prayer requests and pray for those willing to let us pray with them at their car. We share the prayer requests to all in our group to pray.
- Organize soup and salad lunch in October
- Assist with school Christmas decoration and Christmas cookies late in November
- Plan a formal Christmas dinner for faculty and staff in December
- Create balloon-grams of appreciation for Valentine's Day
- Arrange a lasagna lunch in March
- Prepare an end of the year breakfast.

Reaching out to School Families

We want to connect with our school families. This past year, we arranged for transportation for a group of 6-7 grade students and took them after school to our church so that they could be involved in our Wednesday youth activities. The students worked on homework, and then we provided dinner for them prior to the teen meeting.

This upcoming school year, we are asking groups at church to adopt a class from the school and pray for the students and their families. We are looking forward to a campfire gathering with our church and school families as well as considering some seminars that would benefit both our church and school families.

We have asked our pastor to send a letter to all parents at our Christian school, welcoming them and asking them to let the church know if he or our church could support them in any way. And if they are not attending a church, we would love to have them visit us. I should mention that we designed and printed church t-shirts that we wear at a lot of our events.

If you are at a church that is doing something similar, I would love to hear from you and learn about what you are doing. If you are considering starting your own care group, I would encourage you to start with a couple of activities and add activities as you are able. Do not try to do everything at once. I guarantee God will bless you more than you can ever imagine as you bless your school ministry.

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