



## CLASS Program Update October 3, 2019

### The CLASS Program

Currently CLASS has 355 children participating in after-school programs at seven sites. The wait list has been as high as 205 names. It now stands at 183 names. CLASS creates a wait list when there are not enough group leaders to maintain a student to staff ratio of approximately 18:1 from 2:00–5:30 p.m. The program is challenged to find enough adults to work these hours. This year the number of families registering for CLASS grew faster than the number of qualified applicants for the position.

When parents enroll their child for CLASS they submit a registration form and pay a deposit. In the past, all registration took place at the CLASS office. Last spring, the process was changed based on parent feedback. The week that CLASS opened registration for 2019–20, all paperwork was available on-line and registration took place at each elementary school from 4:00–5:30 PM. We filled spots at each school based on the number of CLASS staff who said they were returning to that site. Greenbrier, Johnson and Venable had the fewest number of returning employees who could start at 2:00 PM so they quickly had a wait list. In addition, in August and September CLASS had to fill four positions for returning group leaders who resigned, usually for full time work.

The CLASS wait list comes as the result of high parent interest for quality and affordable after school care, the number of group leaders returning for 2019–2020, staff resignations in August and September, and a limited pool of applicants for the job. Since April, the group leader position has been posted on the school division web site as well as advertised at local colleges, at job centers, at businesses around town, on social media, and through word-of-mouth. We have and will continue to interview group leader candidates as they apply. Once a recommendation to hire is submitted to the Human Resources Department, the vetting process can easily take 4–6 weeks.

CLASS continues to advertise and interview for group leaders so we can accept all qualified applicants.

CLASS Site	Burnley-Moran	Clark	Greenbrier	Jackson-Via	Johnson	Venable	Walker	Total
<b>Children Enrolled</b> as of 9/18/19	75	36	53	48	54	57	32	355
<b>Wait List</b> as of 9/18/19	9	17	44	11	37	65	0	183

For the second year, CLASS has a strong partnership with Madison House, the UVA student volunteer center. During fall semester 2019, up to 21 UVA students will be working with children after school at every elementary site. The volunteers typically come 2 to 3 days a week for an hour at a time. They offer special interest clubs, facilitate lessons in our curriculum, and lead CATCH (physical fitness) activities. The UVA students provide an extra set of hands while bringing energy to the groups. They enjoy getting to know our students as much as the children love making connections with college students and learning about the college experience. To date, this has been a wonderful experience for all involved!