

WELCOME TO OUR AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM!

St. Thomas More School strives to provide a safe, respectful, loving, environment for our students after school. We call our program "More Care". It is a nonprofit service that is licensed by the Child Care Division of Oregon. It is administered by the school under the direction of the principal, Katy Smith, and the program's director, Ms. Louise Carruth. It is offered to STM students ages 4-12. More Care is offered Monday-Friday from after school until 5:30pm. The program is not available during non-school days, noon dismissal days, holiday or vacation days.

Students go directly from their classrooms at dismissal to the Parish Hall. PreK and Kindergarteners are escorted. Students will get water bottles filled, wash hands, check in with the More Care staff and have their snack. We have announcements and prayer. Homework time begins 20 minutes after dismissal. All students with written homework will be expected to get their work completed before they play unless otherwise specified by the parents. Students will get help from our qualified More Care teachers. When homework is completed, playtime begins! They will have the opportunity to engage in developmentally appropriate activities in the Parish Hall and playground. We have board games, dramatic play sets, books, crafts, legos and more.

PHILOSOPHY

We base our program on positivity and respect. The students earn "stars" daily for getting homework done, being respectful, helping others, and for a variety of other ways. The stars go on a special chart and they will have time at the beginning of More Care to shop at our special store. The school discipline policies will be followed at More Care.

MONTHLY SIGN UPS

Signups for More Care are done monthly. They are open for the following month on our school website from the first through the 25th. As an example, if you wanted to sign up for days in November, you can sign up any time from October 1st through the 25th. After the 25th of each month, signups are closed and students cannot be added or deleted due to staffing and certification requirements.

PICK UP INFORMATION

If anyone OTHER than the custodial parent(s) or designated pick up people from our registration form are going to pick up a student from More Care, the More Care staff MUST have authorization from the parent in order to release the child. Authorization can be given in a note, a phone call, or an email. In cases where the staff does not know the person picking up the child, we will ask to see picture ID of the adult. More Care does not provide transportation for students and does not schedule field trips.

PLEASE EMAIL MORE CARE IF PLANS CHANGE FOR YOUR CHILD AFTER SCHOOL. If a student is not absent and has made different plans for a day they are signed up, please email Ms. Louise Carruth at morecare@stmpdx.org so we know they are accounted for after school.

CONTACT INFORMATION

More Care phone number 503-222-5408 (after school hours only) and email morecare@stmpdx.org. Please note if you need to get a message to More Care during hours of operation, call the phone number provided. Emails are checked before and after More Care hours. Parents who have questions about More Care can call or email Katy Smith (principal/operator) or Ms. Louise Carruth (director). Interested parents may review More Care licensing, sanitation, and fire inspection records during More Care hours and may visit any time without advance notice. Parents wishing to register a complaint about More Care should follow problem-solving procedures in the handbook. More Care does not discriminate against any child or parent on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, or gender.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The same school safety and Covid-19 policies will be followed at More Care. We will comply with the state mandated requirements for vaccinations, protective equipment, physical distancing and hand hygiene. If a student or staff member exhibits ANY symptoms of illness, they will be isolated. Students will be supervised by a staff member at all times until a parent/caregiver can pick them up.

In an emergency, our first aid trained teachers will assess the situation and seek emergency assistance when appropriate. The child will be transported to the hospital designated by the parents on the registration form unless medical personnel advise us that lifesaving procedures require the child to be transported to the nearest medical facility. Parents will be called immediately when a child is ill or there is an emergency. A More Care teacher will remain with the sick or injured child until the parent/caregiver arrives.

Students must meet Oregon immunization requirements and parents are asked to notify the school immediately if their child has a communicable disease. To protect the health of all children and staff, we ask that ill and contagious children be kept at home until they are well.

FEES

Families participating in the More Care program are assessed a \$50 registration fee per family to cover the costs of licensing and materials. The fee is \$15.00 per child per day and is non-refundable if plans change or a student is absent. Fees are paid through FACTS and are billed monthly. More Care closes promptly at 5:30pm. A late fee of \$10.00 per child is charged from 5:35pm-5:45pm. After 5:45pm there is a fee of \$1.00 per minute per child in addition to the late fee.

SNACKS

More Care is a "nut free" program due to the number of students with severe nut allergies. We ask that parents provide at least TWO healthy snacks for after school. Students will need to keep these snacks in their backpacks along with their own water bottle. We will have a 10-minute snack time right after school and another snack time around 4:00pm so be sure you pack enough for both times. In addition to the snacks brought by your child from home, we offer string cheese and a variety of fruits and vegetables.