Service-Learning at Saint Joseph’s University

Placement information

Lewis C. Cassidy Elementary School

Address: 6523 Lansdowne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Phone: (215) 581-5506

Supervisor: Natalie Dixon, Community Partnerships Coordinator
           cassidyvista@phennd.org

           Tangela McClam, Principal
           tmmcmclam@philasd.org

Transportation: The Education Department at Saint Joseph’s University will provide transportation for students to service.

Service Days/Time: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

Description of Agency/Activities: Cassidy School is a K-6 school in the Overbrook neighborhood of West Philadelphia with over 500 students. Cassidy has a lively and warm community thanks to many of the teachers’ long history in the neighborhood and several community members’ commitment to seeing the school succeed. 1 in 10 students at Cassidy have emotional disorders or learning disabilities, so we try our best to practice differentiation and instill diverse problem solving for the students and teachers. We have a culturally diverse population with significant Catholic, Christian, and Muslim groups. We also have a decent sized English Language Learners (ELL) population at 3.7% of the overall population. Cassidy is classified as having no designation by the school district, meaning that it is not a failing school but it’s also not a high achievement school. Therefore, this is a pivotal moment for us all to make a difference.

Objectives: Academic and mindfulness support is something we look forward to increasing with the help of field placement students.

Student Role in Agency: Students will work with targeted groups in social problem solving workshops and academic guidance. This can take many forms, whether that means class presentations, assisting teachers, or small group exercises.

Orientation and Requirements: An orientation will be provided the first week of service. The Education Department will facilitate criminal background checks, child abuse clearances, and FBI clearances prior to the start of service.