



WARWICK AREA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATION DULCE ESPERANZA SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



One of the most critical services WAFO offers to the community is a full day, seven-week summer program. The summer months are long work days for farmworkers and we are eager to provide as many safe hours of care as possible. The parents have named the program Dulce Esperanza (Sweet Hope) as this is their wish for a better future for their children. Approximately 90 students attend the program in the Pine Island Elementary School. Busing is offered to the children from their homes. Over nine thousand meals and snacks are offered during the summer.

Staffing and Class size: The classes are divided by age with typically four classrooms comprised of 20-25 students in each. The classes are staffed with one certified teacher and a summer intern. Hiring preference is given to diverse teachers and summer interns, with bilingual abilities, as well as bicultural expertise.

Themes: Each year a theme is woven into the programs. Great emphasis has been placed on connection, compassion and respect. Volunteers from the community support the programs, offering special talks and programs. Some of the programs may include bee keeping and art.

Health and fitness is integrated into the morning routine and afternoon activities. Soccer is a popular sport and the Assistant Director is scheduling activities throughout the summer. We have a visit from the Dental team of Sun River Health to review dental care and prevention. Nutrition and Mindful practice have been added to the curriculum.

Parent Involvement: A parent meeting is held annually at the end of July. Parents visit their child's classroom and talk with the teacher. We build this in as an important activity to encourage parents to get actively involved with their child's education. The parents hold a fundraiser following the close of the program.

Field Trips: Field trips are scheduled whenever possible.

Funding: Funding for this program is provided by contributions from individuals and Foundations. Small grants may be given that provide for a portion of the costs. The full cost for a student to attend the program is approximately \$1,000.



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