



Clarissa's Caring Cafeteria Challenge

By Barbara Gilmour

"Welcome back to school, and welcome back to our 'Cool Kind Kid' classes. Tanner, Nicole, Stephen, Rudy, Carmen and Truman the dragon are here today. We also have a guest. Please say 'hello' to Clarissa."

Everyone welcomed Clarissa.

"Now let's share something you like about being back in school."

Many hands went up, but Rudy was first to say, "I get to see more friends at school than I do over the summer."

Tanner added, "I like playing more sports." Carmen shared, "Some of the fun clubs I belong to, like Girl Scouts, start when school opens."

Nicole smiled and said, "I just like school." The other kids thought she was kidding, but she added, "I like to learn new things." Truman the dragon stood up and said, "School is cool, and dragons like to learn new things, too."

"Clarissa, why don't you tell us why you wanted to visit today."

"Tanner told me about your 'Cool Kind Kid' classes. I want to be a 'Cool Kind Kid,' too. He said you talked a lot about ways to have our school be cool. It bothers me how kids act in the cafeteria. I want to learn how to be a good example for the kids in my school cafeteria." The other kids all agreed this was a big problem.

"I have an idea for a new way to learn how to be a 'Cool Kind Kid' in your cafeteria. We'll make a list of ways 'Cool Kind Kids' act in the cafeteria, and then you can grade your school cafeteria. Let's call it Clarissa's Caring Cafeteria Challenge."

1. ___ Line up without pushing or shoving
 2. ___ Respect others' property
 3. ___ Choose appropriate topics to discuss
 4. ___ Reach out to shy students
 5. ___ Respect others' right to eat in peace
 6. ___ Respect others' right to eat in a clean place
 7. ___ Respect the people who serve the food and clean the room
 8. ___ Promote safety
 9. ___ Live The Golden Rule
 10. ___ Patiently wait your turn
 11. ___ Invite a new kid to eat with you
 12. ___ Listen to teachers, aides and staff
 13. ___ Use good table manners
 14. ___ Clean up your mess (put trash, trays and recyclables in proper places)
 15. ___ Greet cafeteria workers and other staff properly
 16. ___ Say "thank you" to those who prepare, serve and clean up for you
 17. ___ No tripping
 18. ___ No knocking over another person's tray
 19. ___ No talking about gross topics while others are eating
 20. ___ No food fights; no throwing or spitting food
 21. ___ No yelling or running around
 22. ___ No grabbing or stealing other people's food or their lunch money
- ___ TOTAL



Add up your scores and look below at what the scores reveal. If needed, practice improving your skills. You might want to make posters to put in the cafeteria. Repeat the challenge to see your improvement.

85 - 110 is excellent — Your school cafeteria is really cool!

53 - 84 — Some practice needed to improve your score

22 - 52 — This is embarrassing. You really need a major campaign to help your school cafeteria become "cool."