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Pocatello School in Pocatello Closes its Doors After 34 Years

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The Cre-Act school whose curriculum is one-of-its kind in the nation, has had long ties to eastern Idaho and focuses on not only core classes but specialized learning for kids from kindergarten to sixth grade.

But this week, staff has made the news known that the Cre-Act school, run by the Franciscan sisters, will close its doors at the end of this school year.

Sister Janice is the Cre-Act school's principal and has loved the years she has spent as the head of a school whose curriculum she believes in.

Sister Janice, Principal: "We encourage the children to use everything in their whole being to learn. Not just their minds."

Lauren Johnson: "The Franciscan sisters who live here have had a hard week. They've decided to close the doors of their beloved Cre-Act school after 34 years."

Sister Paul Mary, Teacher: "It's hard to say goodbye to them but I know that each child that I've ever taught has always been a part of me."

The close is happening because of a lack of funds. But also, a lack of specialized and trained staff that was needed to run the school of forty-five students.

Sister Janice, Principal: "We're going to keep open the pre-school. It's probably not going to be in the same place, but it will be in Pocatello."

Cre-Act stands for creative acting--the major tool the staff uses to teach children...

Sister Janice, Principal: "It enlivens all their senses, their intellect, their emotional field."

Juliana will be graduating this summer from 6th grade. She has spent her school days at Cre-Act the past 7 years.

Juliana Churba, 6th grade student: "I love how they have dance classes every Friday, because it's a way we can express ourselves."

Her mother, Alesha, sees what the school has done for her daughter.

Alesha Churba, Mother: "It has made her a vibrant individual; she used to be a shy little girl. She was afraid of people. She comes from a divorced home and she is outgoing and vibrant and full of life."

Juliana Churba, 6th grade student: "I don't think I'll ever have teachers as nice as Mrs. Hiller."

Alesha Churba, Mother: "She's had the best teachers that there could be."

Despite its small size, the Franciscan sisters have been proud this year to have students with 11 different religions and seven different ethnic backgrounds. They have always prided themselves on the diversity of their student body.



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