

# Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in Our Learning Community



Dear Guest Teachers:

All of our elementary schools are using a new positive behavior program known as PBIS or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This system is being used in every elementary building resulting in all staff members having the same behavioral and social expectations for our students. Our goal is to promote and celebrate positive behaviors in our schools! Rewards are used to celebrate the great behaviors our students demonstrate. The way classrooms and buildings construct and use rewards are different per school, but the method for assessing behavior is the same.

All Elementary Schools have four common expectations for our learners:

- Be Respectful!
- Be Responsible!
- Be Safe!
- Be Ready To Learn!

Many elements are in place to promote our use of these rules in our school and classroom. First, we have a voice scale system in our school all students must follow. The voice scale system is posted in every classroom and describes the noise level expectations for students:

- Level 0 ~ Silent Voice; No talking
- Level 1 ~ Spy Talk; Whisper voice
- Level 2 ~ Quiet Voice; Soft talking
- Level 3 ~ Inside Voice; Normal talking
- Level 4 ~ Outside Voice; Yelling, Shouting, etc.

While in the hallways, students are a Level 0; while in the classrooms, they should be a Level 0 - 2 (this may vary for specials); while outside a Level 3 - 4.

Besides the voice scale system, we also have a Behavior Matrix in every classroom and posted throughout the building. The Behavior Matrix defines our social and behavioral expectations throughout our entire learning community including the playground, lunchroom, hallway, restroom, classroom, and at an assembly. Students have reviewed and practiced each step of the behavior matrix over the first week of school and have also had re-teaching opportunities in areas where extra reminders have been needed.

To inform students and parents on how students are following the social and behavioral expectations of our learning community, we use a Clip Chart system. Every grade level teacher has a copy of the Clip Chart hanging in their classroom. Each student has a clip with their name on it. The clips are placed on the green square which means "Ready to Learn" at the beginning of each day. This is a great place to be! Ready to Learn means that students are following the behavior matrix and doing what is expected of them! However, throughout the day students can move up or down the Clip Chart based on their behaviors.

For positive behaviors, students can move up the Clip Chart from good day, to great job, to outstanding! This is done when students exceed the behavioral and social expectations and go above and beyond what is expected of them. Some examples of behaviors include helping others, picking up messes they did not

create, using manners, getting ready right away without reminders, standing up to bullying, recognition by others for great choices, etc.

On the flip side, if students are making poor choices, then they move down the Clip Chart. They could move to yellow (Think About It) to orange (Teacher's Choice) to red (Parent Contact). Yellow indicates I have not been making good choices, have been given warnings, and still am not making good choices ~ I need to think about it. Orange indicates I have continued to make bad choices therefore I must clip down and the teacher may decide the type of consequence I need: a missed recess to reteach positive behavior, a fix-it in the think tank, or a parent contact. Red indicates a minor to major infraction that involves an office referral and parent contact home. To receive a red, students must be showing major disrespect, using inappropriate language, engaging in bully-type behaviors, and/or causing physical harm to others, etc.

It is very important to note that students can move up and down the clip chart throughout the day!!! If a student is asked to clip down, but turns around their behavior, they can clip up! It is key that we give students the opportunity to fix their behaviors. To help students with this, remember to provide private warnings on how the student is doing. Most students need the warnings to change their behavior, as they do not want to move down.

If you are a guest teacher for a classroom teacher, you will place a stamp in EACH student's assignment notebook or behavior calendar sheet to correlate with the color of the Clip Chart they ended the day on. All teachers have different colored dot markers specifically for this.

Finally, each building has some form of acknowledgement system where a ticket, slip, or coin is handed out to our students for outstanding behaviors. Students know that if they receive an acknowledgement from a guest teacher, this is worth as much if not more than other acknowledgements (in some of our buildings, a ticket or coin from a guest teacher is worth double the value compared to a ticket or coin from the classroom teacher).

These acknowledgements can be given to individual students and/or the whole group!! It is up to you! Please remember to be consistent and use the behavior matrix to remind students of their behaviors, and feel free to use those acknowledgement tickets/coins to celebrate student successes!

If you have questions regarding PBIS, please feel free to talk with your building Principal about it during your prep time or at lunch or contact me at 563-7804. Do not hesitate to ask for clarity on anything that you do not understand! Our guest teachers need to have a good understanding of this model so that it is successful when they are in the classroom!

Have a great day and thanks for serving in our learning community!

Sincerely,

John Peterson, Director of Pupil Services