

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Program

District Spotlight for August

Be Safe! Be Respectful! Be Responsible!

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a new program being implemented across our school district. We are collaborating with Beechwood and Bellevue Independent School Districts in a small district team approach. Over the summer, our team attended a 2-day workshop, along with those schools, on how to implement PBIS. After those two days, each school team trained their faculty on the program and worked together to plan for the new year. Our students have heard our new PBIS catchphrase many, many times since the first day of school: *Be Safe! Be Respectful! Be Responsible!*

Elementary School Team: Jason Steffen, Jodi Schmidt, Penny Abel, Aubrey Cahill, Lauren Fisher, Lori Procaccino, Danielle Zink

High School Team: Joe Beard, Steve Hart, Lucia Cornett, Elissa Heighton, Sylvia Jordan, Christy Miller

District Team: Mike Borchers, Rick Smith, Cathy Pedro, Jenny McMillen

The teams decided that full implementation should start with common areas that all students share: the hallways, cafeteria, and bathrooms. In each of these areas, teachers are reminding students: *What does it mean to be safe in the hallways / cafeteria / bathrooms? What does it mean to be respectful in the hallways / cafeteria / bathrooms? What does it mean to be responsible in the hallways / cafeteria / bathrooms?* They will list very specific behaviors under each of these categories. For example, being responsible in the cafeteria includes taking up your tray and cleaning up your area at the table before you leave.

Students are constantly hearing these positive reminders from the teachers, in the morning announcements over the intercom, and from classroom / hallway signs. Setting these expectations will reinforce the use of positive behaviors.

Consistency is crucial. How teachers react to specific behaviors has to be consistent. For example, the definition of being tardy to class should be consistent for *all* teachers. It should also be dealt with in a consistent manner by *all* teachers.

Other Items of Note Concerning PBIS:

- Both schools will use a common signal (closed fist in the air) for students to immediately stop talking. This will be used in classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, to and from the park/stadium, and during any safety drills.
- The elementary school will use a school-wide common signal to notify students of voice levels. These will be used in all areas of the school.
- The high school decided on consistent ways to deal with specific behaviors. They created a chart to remind all teachers of the specific behaviors that are to be classroom-managed and those that are to be office-managed. Consistency is an important factor in proper implementation of PBIS.
- Language will shift to positive statements rather than ones with a negative tone. They will begin with the phrase “At Ludlow, we...”. This will be consistent for both schools. For example, “At Ludlow, we use Voice Level 0 in the hallway,” will be used rather than “Be quiet! Stop talking!”
- It has been emphasized to faculty and staff that modeling these positive behaviors is a key element of the program. Students are going to learn positive behavior if it is modeled for them and they are reminded often. When inappropriate behaviors occur, it is important to remind them of our expectations.
- Each team will meet monthly to review their building’s progress with implementation of PBIS. Feedback and reminders will be given to the staff on a regular basis.
- Reports will be run and analyzed by the teams. Reports for attendance, office referrals, and specific behaviors will be run regularly and analyzed.