

Suggestions for Building a Positive School Climate

We ALL must do our part.

All Staff Can Do:

- Meet and greet the students and parents in the hallway. Show excitement regarding seeing them. Comment that you missed them when a student was absent.
- Be visible in areas where groups of students congregate (spill-out areas, cafeterias, hallways) – the presence of many adults can help reduce unsafe incidences from occurring.
- Model to students what you expect of them, i.e. use good manners, etc.
- Teach students in a positive manner what you expect of them.
- Teach values so that you speak a common language. For example, teach students what respect means to you.
- Smile.
- Teach students about choices. Help students reframe, “He/she made me ...” to “I chose ...”
- Help students see the correlation between their choices and consequences.
- Help students identify situations which they encounter difficulty and help them devise plans to be successful.
- Find common interests with students.
- Actively listen to students.
- Encourage students to make good choices.
- Mentor a troubled student.
- Be keen observers of all students noting any warning signs and referring to a school counseling professional (i.e., School Social Worker, School Psychologist, TRUST Specialist, or a Guidance Counselor) when appropriate.
- Use your resources at school. If you are worried about a student, consult with an appropriate staff member: School Social Worker, School Psychologist, TRUST Specialist, or Guidance Counselor.
- Never minimize violence or threats of violence (verbal or physical). Seek help for students immediately.
- Teach students that they have a right to their feelings, but under no circumstances is violence acceptable.
- Know what you are required to do regarding policies and laws (i.e., child abuse, bullying and harassment, reporting crimes, etc.)
- Make an effort to reach out to parents for positive reports of behavior not just for negative reports.
- Strive to make 4 positive statements for every negative comment you make towards a child.
- Use positive reinforcement. Praise and give attention to those behaviors you want to see repeated.