



Vestaburg Community School

Brandon Hubbard, Superintendent

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Monday, August 31, 2015

Dear Parents,

As we begin our school year, we wanted to provide information to you concerning our school-wide focus on behavior. As a staff, we chose four main areas of concern that, as we address them, will improve our school community and climate: language, disrespect, in-subordination and bus behavior. We are very excited with the changes and with the emphasis that our HOPE team and staff have developed to address all four areas. We ask that you help us continue to improve the school climate in the above four areas. We have resources and plans in place to address each throughout the learning day. We will gladly share our resources and our plans with you in hopes, that together, we transform our climate into an even better culture than it already is.

In looking at the area of language, we are concentrating on “Socially Acceptable School Speaking” (S.A.S.S.). Our focus is on language that positively represents our students in public, such as school and employment settings. Our lessons encourage positive words and phrases rather than words with negative connotations or inferences. We are asking students to refrain from swear words, put downs, harassing words, bullying words, phrases that hurt, etc. Please help transform our climate into one where all students feel safe, secure and ready to learn by encouraging this same type of S.A.S.S. while students are away from school and in your care.

“Respect is a kind way of treating someone or something. Showing respect means you act in a way that shows others you care about their feelings and well-being. Treat others and property the way you want to be treated.” This statement is posted in classrooms and throughout our schools to ensure that everyone remembers to continuously show a respectful attitude toward others. Please help us continue this behavior throughout your interactions so that we positively represent ourselves, our families and our school community.

Insubordination is being defined by our staff as “refusal to follow rules”. We are strongly encouraging our students to respectfully follow expectations and comply with what is asked of them in the classroom. We are teaching ways to respectfully disagree, while still following the expectations. This is yet, another way, we are preparing students for their future in the employment industry and real world scenarios – a trait needed for success in life. Please help us continue this positive behavior throughout personal interactions.

For the safety of our children, we have worked together with our transportation department to streamline our expectations – making them short, sweet and simple. They are: be courteous and use appropriate language; follow the driver’s directions; refrain from eating and drinking; stay in seat while the bus is moving; and keep head, hands and feet inside the bus at all times. Our bus rules are carry-overs of our daily expectations in our school. We encourage children to help the drivers and fellow passengers remain safe by complying with the bus expectations whether before school, after school or on special trips.

In response to the four areas of expected behaviors, our staff also revamped the corrective strategies being used to address misbehavior. We have developed a process for handling behavior in the classroom and for referring behavior out of the classroom to the office. As we have addressed climate change for the positive in our buildings, we have cohesively worked together to create the best expectations and strategies to effectively strengthen the positive behaviors of everyone in our buildings. It is our hope that you help us with this by encouraging the climate shift for

school within your homes and in all areas related to school. Please contact us if you we can assist with resources or further information.

Sincerely,

Vestaburg Staff