

MTSS-BEST At Welby Elementary



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All of us have different challenges and things we can work on in our quest to be lifelong learners as educational leaders. One thing I have been personally trying to improve in my career is to better celebrate successes in schools I am able to work at. I appreciate the opportunity to do exactly that in being asked to write about good things happening at school.

Nestled in the suburbs of South Jordan, Welby Elementary School was named after the old railroad town of Welby, which was located at approximately 9000 South and 4200 West in West Jordan. The railroad town of Welby was named in commemoration of Mr. Arthur E. Welby for his outstanding service to the Rio Grande Western Railroad.

When Mr. Welby served as Superintendent, then General Superintendent over the Rio Grande Western Railroad, he probably had to be skilled in the management of his staff and workers. Much like how the Rio Grande Western Railroad experienced great success thanks to Mr. Welby's management, Welby Elementary works to have success in our instruction. We want as much learning as possible to occur here. We have learned from different departments in Jordan School District (Teaching and Learning, Student Services, and Special Education) that learning cannot take place in chaos. We have all seen first-hand the effects of chaos in our schools. Over time, visiting with other school leaders in our district, it appears chaos caused by student behavior has increased over time. To combat this, we appreciate our district's Dr. Brian King and Dr. Melanie Dawson for helping us establish, and apply the benefits of having an MTSS-BEST (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Behavioral and Emotional Support Team).

Welby Elementary is proud of its MTSS-BEST and it is one of the many good things happening here. Through surveying and getting input from staff, we were able to determine what our problems are and what our goals should be. A map of our school was used to compile locations in our school where behavior problems were happening most frequently. We labeled our

stickers with descriptions of what behaviors were happening in those specific locations. Sometimes the same location was where multiple grades experienced behavior issues creating chaos locations or the proverbial eyes of the storm. For us, based on data collected from the past couple of years, the hallways of the school were going to be our focus.

Together, our MTSS-BEST made decisions about rules, expectations, and procedures in the hallways as a school community. Rules were modeled for students using videos made by our student council. Our mascot demonstrated non-examples while student council members showed what hallway behavior should look like through their award-winning acting abilities. All staff are committed towards maintaining chaos-free hallway behavior by motivating students with heavy positive reinforcement. Our assistant principal, Janae Young, brought her Pride tickets with her when she joined our school this year and students strive to earn a ticket from any staff member by demonstrating proper behavior and desired attitudes. The result has been an improvement in the behaviors students demonstrate as they walk through the halls to their various destinations.

Being positive, and “Lifting each other up,” has been our theme this year at Welby Elementary. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in establishing a culture of positivity and creating a safe, uplifting climate for students to learn. Much like how Mr. Arthur E. Welby was able to influence countless others through his efforts on the Rio Grande Western Railroad, we hope the climate Welby Elementary has been able to establish benefits countless more students as we have the privilege of working with them.