

School-Wide Behavior Program

A school's objective is to create and cultivate a secure, systematic, and positive learning culture. Bastian Elementary School knew a behavior program would be the first step in obtaining this goal. Implementing a successful program can be tricky, because a school needs buy-in from teachers, staff, parents, and most importantly the students. Bastian Elementary School has worked diligently to create a school wide plan to cultivate a positive climate. The plan was created with support and buy-in of teachers, assistants, parents and students.

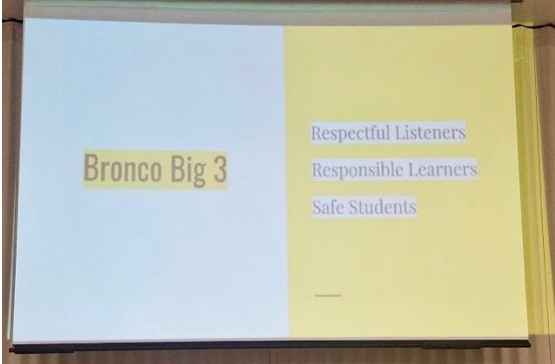
Teachers, staff, and administration worked tirelessly to collaborate on what procedures were needed in the halls, classrooms, special activities, gym, office, outside, etc. for a safer, happier Bastian Elementary School. Rotations were then orchestrated to teach the student body what the "Bastian Big Three": Respectful Listeners, Responsible Learners, and Safe students look, act and sound like in each area of the school. Respectful listeners follow adult directions the first time given and use appropriate voice levels throughout building. Responsible learners follow school rules, remind others to follow the rules, clean up after themselves, and take proper care of personal belongings and school equipment. Safe students walk facing forward, they keep hands, feet, and objects to self, get adult help, and use equipment appropriately. These guidelines were posted throughout the building and referred to on arrival and dismissal of school in classrooms.

To make sure the behavior program was a triumph an assembly was organized and conducted to foster understanding and excitement about the reward plan associated with the new system. Breakout sessions by teachers and staff for further explanation were organized which included role plays and more specific directions for each area of the school. Music and dancing followed. It was truly something to see the students showing their Bastian pride with matching shirts boogieing to the YMCA song. Then, our faculty and staff continued the celebration by making it rain "Bastian bronco bucks" for every good behavior in sight.

Incorporating social-emotional learning was another important aspect to accomplishing our behavior goals. Students continue to participate in weekly lessons on a variety of essential topics such as respect, perseverance, growth mindset, friendship, anti-bullying, sportsmanship, mindfulness, etc. Because we know what we focus on grows, Bastian focused on the positive and self-discipline aspect. Then, consequences became about restorative justice and positive reinforcement. Administration and staff were more visible and culturally aware of individual students with deliberate avenues to discipline.

The school chose not only prizes for students to earn for their good works in demonstrating school-wide behaviors, but actual activities too. For example, sixth graders had an activity where they could practice working in teams to

make marshmallow structures in the cafeteria. Prizes changed regularly and activities for grade levels switched on a monthly basis. Students were working hard to be their very best selves so they could be involved. School climate was altered unequivocally. Who knew a school-wide behavior program could be so heart-stirring? It did just that, because we all regarded the succinct, common discipline as tantamount to prevailing happiness and safety within our walls.



Bastian Elementary
[cafeteria]

Respectful listeners

- Indoor voices
- Be polite

Responsible learners

- Clean up
- Food stays in cafeteria
- Sit with your grade
- Follow walking lines
- Raise hand for help

Safe students

- Food to yourself
- Feet on floor
- Bottom on bench
- Facing forward
- Walk