

## **Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School 2019-20 Safe School Climate Plan**

David S. Olechna, Principal (Safe School Climate Specialist)

The Safe School Climate Committee is made up of the principal, assistant principal, psychologist, guidance counselor, classroom teacher representatives, Language Arts Consultant, special education staff, and a parent representative.

### **School Climate Standard #1**

**The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing, and sustaining a positive climate.**

The administration annually addresses parents and all staff members at the beginning of each school year and periodically reviews climate expectations.

Each year the staff develops a social contract (working agreement) so that mutually agreed upon norms exist among all members of the staff and administration.

The school's focus is that intentional mean behavior is unacceptable. "If it's mean, intervene." In the beginning of each year, teachers review with students how intervening can appropriately be done at their grade level.

Responsive Classroom is the focal point for our school climate initiative. All classrooms work to build strong classroom communities.

All classroom teachers greet their children upon each morning's arrival. This starts students' days with personal contact with their teacher. The teachers can also ensure that students are traveling safely and appropriately in the hallways.

Staff members monitor hallways during dismissal so that all travel safely.

To ensure that students are always with adult supervision:

- a) Students do their work in classrooms, not in the hallways.
- b) An adult is present in every classroom when there is indoor recess.

All staff members follow similar procedures related to Responsive Classroom and restorative discipline for behavior and classroom management. All staff members have had some training in these procedures.

Physical aggression or threats are office referrals and staff should contact the main office for immediate assistance. Discipline matters are documented via an office discipline referral form. Ongoing behavioral issues should be documented and reported immediately to administration before the end of the school day.

Monitoring staff document observations on both the playground areas during recess and in the cafeteria during lunch. Physical aggression or threats during lunch and recess are to be immediately reported to administration.

### **School Climate Standard #2**

**The school community sets policies specifically promoting (a) the development and sustainability of social, emotional, ethical, civic, and intellectual skills, knowledge and dispositions and (b) a comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage students who have become disengaged.**

At the start of each school year parents and students are required to sign that they have read and understood the online Chatfield-LoPresti Student Handbook and the Board of Education policies related to school rules. Included in these policies, but not limited to, are the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911.

Classroom teachers review the student handbook with their students during the first week of school. School administration and the guidance counselors teach and review in student-friendly words the key aspects of the student handbook in small group settings.

### **School Climate Standard #3**

**The school community's practices are identified, prioritized and supported to (a) promote the learning and positive social, emotional, ethical and civic development of students, (b) enhance engagement in teaching, learning and school-wide activities; (c) address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage those who have become disengaged; and (d) develop and sustain appropriate operational infrastructure and capacity building mechanisms for meeting this standard.**

Chatfield-LoPresti School embraces the Responsive Classroom model. All teachers have had some training in the model. In addition, the school continues to provide teachers and paraprofessionals with additional training each school year. Chatfield-LoPresti School holds both school-wide and grade-wide morning meetings. In support of the Responsive Classroom approach, staff annually reviews its own CLS Responsive Classroom Handbook at the start of every year and periodically revisits it as well.

### **School Climate Standard #4**

**The school community creates an environment where all members are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically.**

Chatfield-LoPresti School welcomes parents as guest readers in their children's classrooms. Volunteers are also welcome to assist in the media center.

A fourth and fifth grade CLS Student Ambassador Team is responsible for welcoming new students to our school community through school tours, in addition to welcoming school visitors.

### **School Climate Standard #5**

**The school community develops meaningful and engaging practices, activities and norms that promote social and civic responsibilities and a commitment to social justice.**

Our staff promotes the celebration of understanding and appreciating those with different backgrounds and beliefs of one another through both Developmental Guidance and social studies lessons.

Upper grade classrooms are partnered with lower grade classrooms for Book Buddies. These partnerships provide worthwhile relationships that strengthen our school community.

Grade 5 students are given the opportunity to be mentors for kindergarten students as bus, lunch, and recess buddies. They also can be breakfast buddies for students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3. As breakfast buddies, fifth graders assist students who need extra assistance with their letter and sight word recognition, as well as with their math facts.

All students recite and revisit the CLS Student Pledge every morning following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The preferred methods for addressing disciplinary infractions are the three parts of restorative discipline – logical consequences, “You break it, you fix it,” and loss of privileges.