

## **Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School 2015-2018 Safe School Climate Plan**

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The Safe School Climate Committee is made up of the principal, assistant principal, psychologist, guidance counselor, 3 classroom teacher representatives, the Language Arts Consultant, 1 special education teacher, and a parent representative. The School Climate Committee meets monthly to consider school-wide efforts to promote, enhance, and sustain a positive climate.

The administration annually addresses parents and all staff members at the beginning of each school year to review policies related to safe school climate, 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, step between and intervene." In the beginning of each year, teachers review with students how intervening can appropriately be done at their grade level. Parents are surveyed biennially regarding school climate.

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 as they arrive each morning. This assists in students starting their day with personal contact with their teacher and the teachers can also ensure that students are traveling safely and appropriately in the hallways. At dismissal staff members are stationed throughout the building to monitor hallways so that all travel safely. To ensure that students are always with adult supervision, students do their work in classrooms, not in the hallways and 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. Chatfield-LoPresti School embraces the Responsive Classroom model. All teachers have had some training in the model. The school continues to provide teachers with additional training in an ongoing fashion and is extending this training to support staff.

Physical aggression or threats are office referrals and staff should contact the main office for immediate assistance. If children are sent to the office for an offense, staff will fill out a referral form. Ongoing behavioral issues are documented and reported. 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 immediately reported to the office.

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.

At the start of each school year parents and students are required to sign that they have read and understood the Chatfield-LoPresti Student Handbook and the Board of Education policies related to school rules. Included in these policies, but not limited to, is the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911. Classroom teachers review the student handbook with their students on the first day 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.

Chatfield-LoPresti School welcomes parents as guest readers in their children’s classrooms. Volunteers are also welcome to assist in the media center and art room. There will be a school volunteer orientation annually beginning in the fall of 2015. A fifth grade Ambassador Team will be created in the fall of 2015 to be responsible for welcoming new students to the school community, and supports for students include but are not limited to a school tour, friendship groups, lunch buddies, and homework help.

Through both Developmental Guidance and social studies lessons staff promotes the celebration of understanding and appreciating different backgrounds and beliefs of one another. CLS staff believe that students are a part of developing positive culture in the school. Upper grade classrooms are partnered with lower grade classrooms for Book Buddies. These partnerships provide worthwhile relationships that strengthen the school community. Grade 5 students are provided with the opportunity to be mentors for kindergarten students as bus, lunch, and recess buddies. The Chatfield-LoPresti Student Pledge is taught and revisited by all students every morning.