

## **Seymour Middle School 2021-22 Safe School Climate Plan**

Jodie Roden, Principal (Safe School Climate Specialist)

The Seymour School Climate Committee's membership includes administration, teachers, support services staff, office staff, student representatives, and parent representatives. The Safe School Climate Committee's members also serve as the Seymour Middle School's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team. The PBIS Committee (School Climate Committee) meets monthly to consider school-wide efforts to promote, enhance, and sustain a positive climate.

The Seymour Middle School administration annually addresses parents and staff members at the beginning of each school year to review policies related to safe school climate, and periodically reviews climate expectations. The middle school's administration and teachers hope to encourage and reinforce the message that students should always do the right thing, be a part of the bigger picture, and serve as an upstanding member within the school community and beyond.

A school climate goal is included in the Seymour Middle School Improvement Plan. The school community is surveyed periodically to get feedback on the climate of the school. The PBIS/School Climate Committee and the School-Based Data Team analyze the progress towards the goal and keep the staff and students informed of the successes and challenges at monthly faculty meetings and displays in the school.

Seymour Middle School continues to implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Team and school rules/expectations are closely aligned with this proactive philosophy. The PBIS rules/expectations can be found in each classroom, throughout the building and in the student handbook located on the Seymour Middle School district website. Parents/guardians/students are instructed to read the handbook, especially the code of conduct section. Students and parents/guardians sign the SMS Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form which states that they have read and discussed the publication. The acknowledgment form is then returned to the school.

The SMS school counselors, the health curriculum, and outside sources review important issues related to school climate. These issues include cyber-bullying, healthy relationships, harassment, and drug use. Additionally, during the administrative guidance assemblies, rules and expectations are reviewed and explained. This year, our Guidance team and classroom teachers are implementing lessons from Suite 360, a researched-based SEL program. The specific, hand-selected lessons are mapped to the grade-specific learning objectives allowing each grade level, or team, to focus their efforts on needs specific to that student population.

All students receive PBIS interventions using a continuum of procedures encouraging expected behavior and discussing the failure to meet expected behavior. As patterns of inappropriate behaviors are documented students may be recommended for more intensive or targeted interventions. Open communication between staff and parents is essential for the success of the school climate. In order to ensure safety, staff monitor students at all times and a school resource officer is present in the building. Seymour Middle School students are expected to do the right thing and are encouraged to report unacceptable behavior to an adult in school.