

Dear Edwards Community, ,

Recently I have had several good conversations with parents and community about what is happening in school. It seems quite a few conversations have been about student behavior.

I'd like to let you know about some of our procedures and protocols around behavior.

Edwards Elementary has a great Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system. We recognize and encourage positive behavior through our Eagle Eyes, Character Trait Awards, and just telling the kids they are doing a great job of being safe, respectful and responsible. We believe in this type of positive recognition to help students understand behavioral expectations in our school community and beyond.

On the other hand, when we encounter challenging student behavior, we have a series of protocols in place to identify what is causing it. Once we understand why the behavior is happening, we can address it through a variety of methods, including:

- Teaching appropriate behaviors and replacement behaviors
- Modifying the environment (move desks, change seating, etc.)
- Using breaks outside of the classroom to help students regulate
- Implementing logical consequences (loss of recess, community service, have student write an apology, etc.)
- Use of sensory tools (fidgets, foot bands, etc.)
- Encouraging collective responsibility by including parents, counselors, and other stakeholders
- Creating formal behavior plans with a behavior specialist
- Working with mental health specialists in the district
- Consulting outside agencies
- Suspending students in very extreme circumstances

Recently a colleague stated "Behavior is communication." Understanding the cause behind challenging behavior is the best way for us to properly address it. While you may not see how a behavior issue is being managed, it is happening. We are committed to student privacy. Just as we do not discuss your student's behavior or academic achievement with other parents, we would never disclose another student's information to you. It is federal law that student privacy is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student information is confidential.

I hope this information provides some answers to your questions about student behavior at Edwards Elementary School. I'm am very proud of the caring students we have here at Edwards who are very understanding and considerate of each other. I'm also very proud of our staff and how they've come together to learn new ways of responding to student behavior. We're focused on understanding challenging behavior, addressing it, and ensuring all students feel safe at

school. We will continue to encourage positive behavior and to reward it. I welcome you to join us as we work to develop students who are considerate, cooperative, and excellent representatives of our school community.

Please know if you have questions, you are welcome to ask any time.

Scott Murphy
Principal
Edwards Elementary