

When parents make the decision to send their children to our school they have a number of expectations. First, they want their children to be safe. Second, they want their children to be respected. Third, they want their children to have a high quality educational experience. Finally, they want their children to be inspired.

We have several systems in place to keep children safe. They are supervised closely when they enter and exit the building. Our doors remain locked during the school day. There are procedures and practices in place to keep our students not only physically safe, but emotionally safe as well. We have an anti-bullying program and trained adults who closely monitor student social relationships. Students learn how to solve problems, stand up for themselves, and maneuver important social situations.

Students learn respect at school because it is modeled for them every day. Coercing children to behave by offering rewards or being excessively controlling is ineffective. While bad behavior is not tolerated, correcting that behavior is a process involving the student, staff, and parents. Children need clear expectations and reasons for compliance. We listen to our students when they feel they have been treated unfairly and offer them a platform for change. Exemplary behavior is recognized.

The idea that providing a quality education is third on this list may come as a surprise to many. However, as educators we understand that our students won't care what we know if they don't know that we care. We keep the quality up with professional development, monitoring, and communicating to the public the important concepts being taught in the curriculum. Beginning this week, visitors to our school will see vital instructional objectives posted outside each classroom door. We hope to spark conversations with our parents about how they can support their children as we all work to deliver these important concepts.

Inspiration for learning involves a lot of creativity. Sometimes information just needs to be memorized – like multiplication tables and certain sight words. However, if we don't expose our students to possibilities for applying this information we have failed greatly. This is where enrichment classes, field trips, and application-based instruction comes into play. Our staff works very, very hard to determine what sparks interest with our students and we use those interests to stretch imaginations and provide opportunities for exploration. It is very exciting when those light bulbs go on.

The next few weeks are very busy for us. On December 6th most of our students will be attending a play in the Springs. On their way back they'll get another opportunity to see the progress on our new facility. The steel skeleton is up, the slab is poured, the roof is going on, and important systems are being installed. Very exciting stuff!

Other important dates to remember include:

December 15th – Annual Christmas Program at 6:30
December 21 – Class Parties at 3:00.
December 22 – First day of Winter Break
January 9 – Classes Resume

Have a safe and joyful holiday season!