



Downingtown Area School District

Bradford Heights Elementary School
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Dr. Andrew Hoffert
Principal

Dear Parents,

You may have already heard about the kickoff assemblies for our Schoolwide Positive Behavior Initiative that were held during the first few days of school. Students were re-introduced to our code of conduct, which is simply a set of guidelines that we can use to make decisions throughout our day – it can be applied in the classroom, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and really in any situation that a student or staff member can think of. Our code of conduct says, “**RESPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS, and RESPECT THE SCHOOL.**”

It may sound simplistic, but at the core, behavior and attitude in the school setting can be boiled down to these concepts. Students who work hard, play hard, take care of their health and wellness, and make and keep friendships are showing respect for themselves. When we care about our neighbors, use kind language, walk quietly in the hallways, pick up after ourselves, and engage in inclusive practices, we show respect for others. When we keep our school and classrooms neat, use our eyes to view hallway artwork instead of our hands, and pick up litter around the playground, we show respect for our school. These concepts have been in place here at Bradford Heights for a number of years, but beginning last year, we took it a step further by creating lessons that demonstrate our expectations about how the code of conduct is demonstrated across many of the common situations and scenarios here in the building.

In addition to the situational lessons, we’ve added a level of acknowledgement for our students who are able to demonstrate the code. All staff members have tickets that they can give to students at any time throughout the school day. Students write their names on the tickets, and then deposit them in classroom collection bins. These are combined at the end of the week, and two names are selected from each grade level as our “Students of the Week.” The more tickets a student earns, the greater a chance they have to be drawn. Students of the week are displayed on a bulletin board in the lobby, and receive a certificate, along with a special prize to recognize their efforts.

All of the tickets are combined again into larger collection bins – also on display in the lobby – and students are working to fill their bins, earning a special reward for the whole grade level. The fun part is that the students come up with that reward themselves – it could be a special theme for a Spirit Day, extra recess time, a special movie day, or anything reasonable that they come up with.

Throughout the school building, students will see posters and signs reminding them about the code and how it applies in specific situations. Our goal is for students to begin to think about these simple guidelines focusing on respect can make their experience both here at Bradford Heights, and out in the world, better for everyone.

As always, thanks for your support of Bradford Heights and our shared learning community.

Andy Hoffert
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