

**Positive Behavior Intervention Support** is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The PBIS process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students.

Have you heard your student refer to our school rules as listed in the front of our student handbook? The rules are as follows:

1. Take responsibility for learning.
2. Respect the rights and needs of others.
3. Act in a safe and healthy way.
4. Treat all property with respect.

In implementing PBIS, we have incorporated our rules into our *Hands are Not for Hurting* motto: "I will be responsible, respectful, and safe in everything I do. I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others."

As part of PBIS, the staff uses evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To help students follow the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- Teach and refer to our school-wide expectations (see attached chart)
- Use prompting, redirecting, and training of behavior as we teach.
- Look for the positive first, and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.
- Speak with students using a caring, positive voice tone.

**Peer Mediation** is a program designed to teach conflict resolution and peer mediation skills. Each year, all students at our school will participate in this interactive skill training. Students learn how to mediate for others and also how to use negotiation skills to 'be their own mediator'. In conflict resolution, students follow these rules: No interrupting, no name calling or put downs, tell the truth, work to solve the problem, and no physical fighting.

The purpose of the program is to change the climate of the school by teaching students to use effective listening skills, to express themselves in a clear, positive way, and to deal with conflict constructively both inside and outside the classroom. Using these techniques also helps students take responsibility for their own behavior.

When the family, child, and school work together as a team, great things happen, so please work with us in reinforcing these concepts with your child at home. If you have questions about either program, please be sure to contact your child's teacher. Thank you for helping to make this a productive year of learning.