

**2023-24**

**Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School  
Safe School Climate Plan**

David S. Olechna, Principal (Safe School Climate Specialist)

The Safe School Climate Committee is made up of the principal, assistant principal, psychologist, school counselor, classroom teacher representatives, Language Arts Consultant, special education staff, a parent representative, and a student representative.

**School Climate Standard #1**

**The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing, and sustaining a positive climate.**

The administration annually addresses parents and all staff members at the beginning of each school year and periodically reviews climate expectations.

Each year the staff develops a social contract (working agreement) so that mutually agreed upon norms exist among all members of the staff and administration.

The school's focus is that intentional mean behavior is unacceptable. "If it's mean, intervene." At the beginning of each year, teachers review with students how intervening can appropriately be done at their grade level.

Responsive Classroom is the focal point for our school climate. All classrooms work to build strong classroom communities using Responsive Classroom and Caring School Community approaches.

All classroom teachers greet their children as they arrive each morning. This assists in students starting their day with personal contact with their teacher and the teachers can also ensure that students are traveling safely and appropriately in the hallways.

At dismissal staff members are stationed throughout the building to monitor hallways so that all travel safely.

To ensure that students are always with adult supervision:

- a) Students do their work in classrooms, not in the hallways.
- b) An adult is present in every classroom when there is indoor recess.

All staff members follow similar procedures related to Responsive Classroom and restorative discipline for behavior and classroom management. All staff members have had some training in these procedures.

Physical aggression or threats are office referrals and staff should contact the main office for immediate assistance. If children are sent to the office for an offense, staff will fill out a referral form. Ongoing behavioral issues should be documented and reported.

Monitoring staff will be documenting observations on both the playground areas during recess and in the cafeteria during lunch. Physical aggression or threats during lunch and recess are to be immediately reported to the office.

## **School Climate Standard #2**

**The school community sets policies specifically promoting (a) the development and sustainability of social, emotional, ethical, civic, and intellectual skills, knowledge and dispositions and (b) a comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage students who have become disengaged.**

At the start of each school year parents and students are required to sign that they have read and understood the online Chatfield-LoPresti Student Handbook and the Board of Education policies related to school rules. Included in these policies, but not limited to, are the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911.

Classroom teachers review the student handbook with their students during the first week of school. School administration and the school counselors teach and review in student-friendly words the key aspects of the student handbook in small group settings.

## **School Climate Standard #3**

**The school community's practices are identified, prioritized and supported to (a) promote the learning and positive social, emotional, ethical and civic development of students, (b) enhance engagement in teaching, learning and school-wide activities; (c) address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage those who have become disengaged; and (d) develop and sustain appropriate operational infrastructure and capacity building mechanisms for meeting this standard.**

Chatfield-LoPresti School embraces the Responsive Classroom model. All teachers have had some training in the model. In addition, the school continues to provide teachers and paraprofessionals with additional training each school year.

## **School Climate Standard #4**

**The school community creates an environment where all members are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically.**

Chatfield-LoPresti School welcomes parents as guest readers in their children's classrooms. Volunteers are also welcome to assist in the media center. On Veterans Day military veterans are welcomed into the school to share their experiences as well.

A fourth and fifth grade CLS Student Ambassador Team is responsible for welcoming new students to our school community including, but not limited to, a school tour, friendship groups, and lunch buddies.

## **School Climate Standard #5**

**The school community develops meaningful and engaging practices, activities and norms that promote social and civic responsibilities and a commitment to social justice.**

Through both School Counseling and social studies lessons our staff promotes the celebration of understanding and appreciating those with different backgrounds and beliefs of one another.

Upper grade classrooms are partnered with lower grade classrooms for Book Buddies. These partnerships provide worthwhile relationships that strengthen our school community.

Grade 5 students are provided with the opportunity to be mentors for kindergarten students as bus, lunch, and recess buddies. They also receive the opportunity to be breakfast buddies for students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3. As breakfast buddies the fifth graders assist students who need extra assistance with their letter and sight word recognition, as well as with their math facts.

The CLS Student Pledge is taught and revisited by all students every morning.

The preferred methods for addressing disciplinary infractions are the three parts of restorative discipline – logical consequences, “You break it, you fix it,” and loss of privileges.