

Teaching Schoolwide Expectations



Everybody. Every day.



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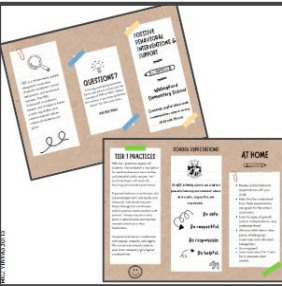


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Schoolwide Expectations



Philosophy

In order to create a peaceful learning environment where everyone is safe, respectful, responsible, and helpful, students need to know what is expected.

At WES, we teach a series of lessons at the beginning of the year to ensure that students know what expected behaviors look like, sound like, and feel like.

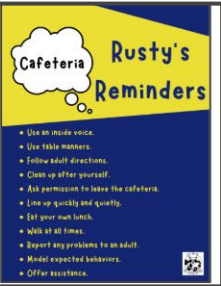
We believe that practicing expected behaviors is an essential part of learning them, so we reteach PBS lessons in our classrooms after winter break, after spring break, and any time we notice students needing reinforcement. Occasionally small groups of students and/or individuals need additional practice.

Schoolwide Expectations

The WES rules are simple:

- Be safe.
- Be respectful.
- Be responsible.
- Be helpful.

There are posters displayed throughout the building reminding students what each of these rules looks like, sounds like, and feels like. Schoolwide expectations should be displayed in your classroom and should be the foundation of any rules you develop with your students.



Developing Classroom Expectations

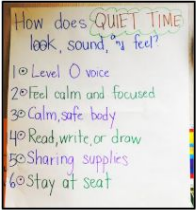


Teachers at WES develop, explicitly teach, and model expectations and routines in their own classrooms.

Experience has shown us that classroom communities are most successful when students are involved in the process of creating the rules and when those rules are stated in positive, observable terms. For example, instead of saying "No hitting," try "We keep our hands to ourselves."

The First Six Weeks of School is a great resource for establishing classroom expectations.

Classroom Procedures



You'll develop ways of doing everything from unpacking in the morning to lining up for special, getting a band-aid, sharpening pencils, answering the phone, finishing incomplete work, asking for help, eating a snack...the list is endless!

Trying to teach all of these procedures the first day (or even the first week) of school is impossible. Plan to spend the first six weeks of school modeling, practicing, and reinforcing them. Of course you'll want to prioritize procedures that are crucial for safety (e.g. fire drill) and everyday essentials (e.g. unpacking and lining up). Remember, the time you invest at the beginning of the year will pay off in the long run when your classroom runs like a well-oiled machine!



Instructional Schedule

It's important to follow the building schedule for one reason—everyone else is following it! Special education teachers, special area teachers, counselors, related service providers, support teachers, teaching assistants, and everyone else working in the building expect students to be where the schedule says they'll be. This is not to say that you can't deviate from the schedule. Follow the lead of the teachers on your team when planning special activities including guests, reading buddies, extra recess, field trips, and more. And always communicate your plans with anyone who might be affected by the change.



Classroom Schedule

When students know what to expect throughout the school day, they feel safe, secure, and more in control. A clearly posted daily schedule sets the tone for the day and helps students transition between activities more smoothly. Because they can anticipate what's coming next and prepare for it, students learn independence, responsibility, and time management. Students with autism, ADHD, and anxiety often find a posted schedule particularly helpful. While your classroom schedule should follow the times outlined on the building instructional schedule, you'll also want to include time for brain breaks, energizers, transitions, and resetting after special activities.

Schoolwide Theme



Our schoolwide theme is a word or phrase chosen each year by the theme coordinator and principal. It serves as a unifying thread that brings together students, staff, and the broader school community. The purposes of our schoolwide theme include cultivating a positive, engaging, and collaborative learning environment and promoting school spirit. Themes are integrated into many facets of school life—assemblies, decor, art projects, special events, classroom instruction, and more.

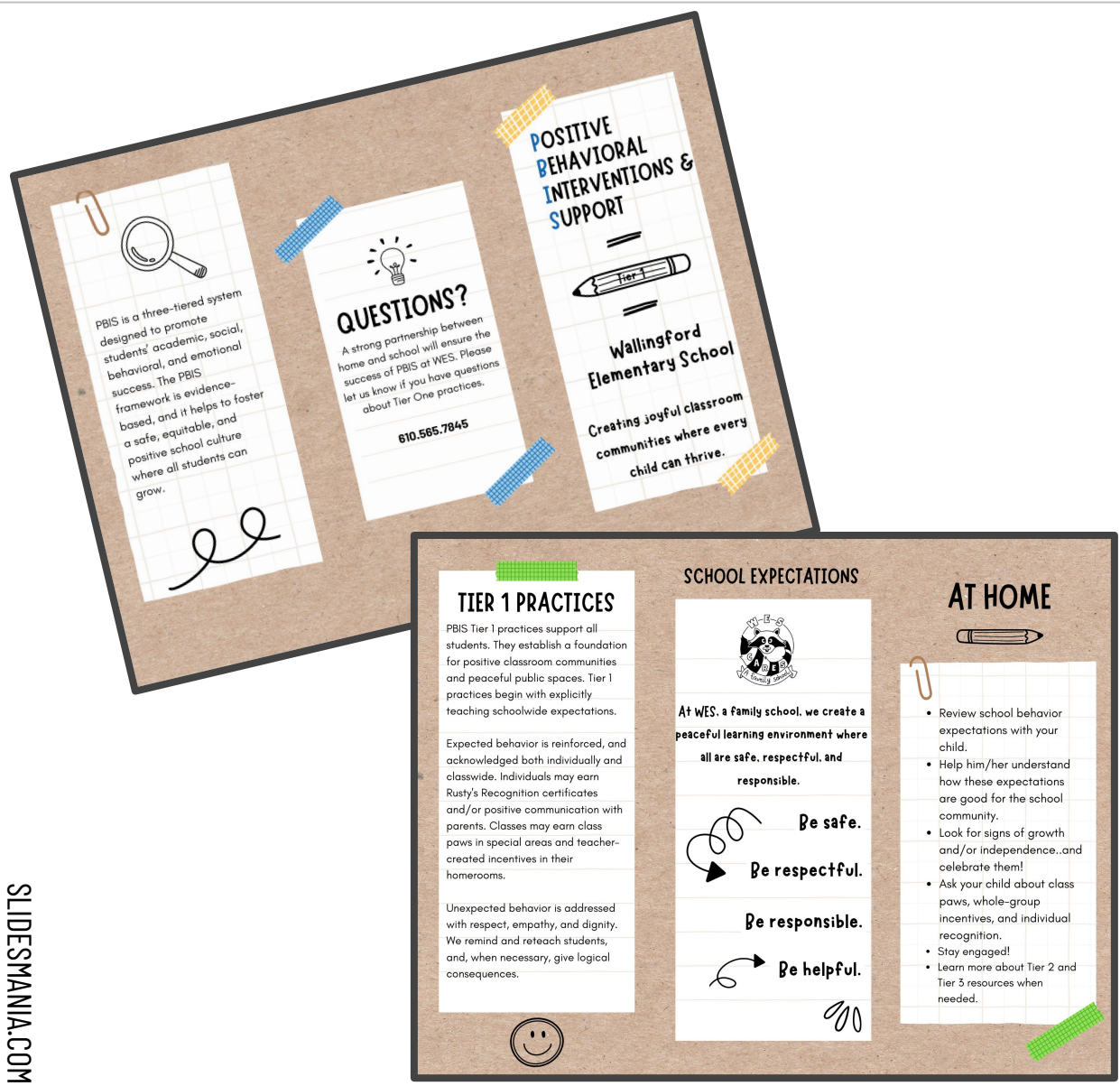
The theme for the 2025-2026 school year is "Game On!"

Examples of past themes include "The Sky is the Limit," "Be Who You Were Made to Be," "Courage," and "Time to Shine."

Grade-Level Meetings



A grade-level meeting is an opportunity for all of the classes at a given grade level to get together. Each grade schedules and runs its meetings differently, but they share a common framework. They usually begin with a message that introduces the topic of the meeting. The message is followed by a celebration of what is going well—progress on goals set at prior meetings, rewards classes have earned, recognition of individual students, etc. The celebration is followed by an activity. This can be anything from reading a book to playing a game, solving a puzzle, making something, introducing a grade-level project, and more. At the end of the meeting a goal for the upcoming month is set. It might be something academic, something related to the monthly theme, the schoolwide theme, behavior, or something else altogether. Teaching assistants and special education teachers are included in grade-level meetings.



Philosophy

At WES, a family school, we create a peaceful learning environment where everyone is safe, respectful, responsible, and helpful.

We believe students need to know what expected behaviors look like, sound like, and feel like, so we use interactive modeling to teach a series of lessons at the beginning of each school year.

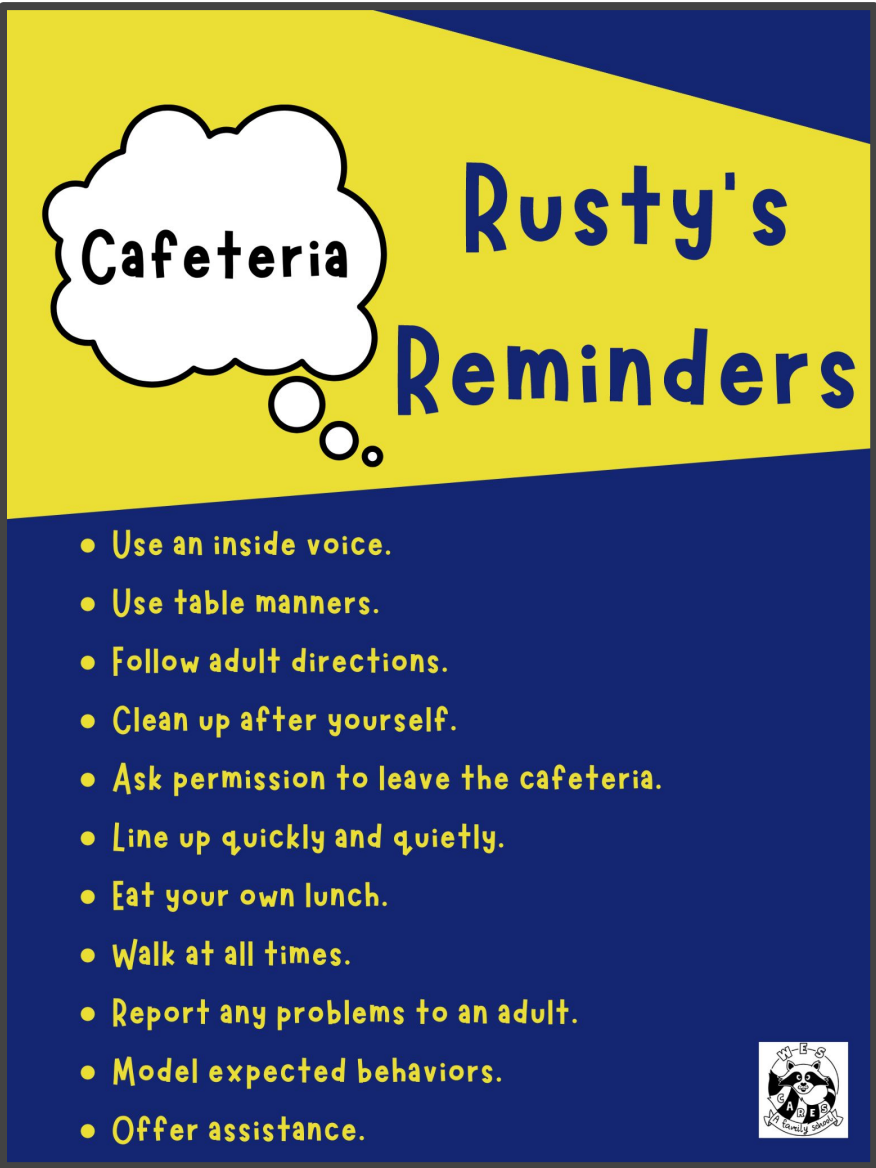
Because practicing expected behaviors is an essential part of learning them, we reteach PBIS lessons in our classrooms after winter break, after spring break, and any time we notice students needing reinforcement. Occasionally small groups of students and/or individuals need additional practice. This is done with respect, empathy, and dignity.

Schoolwide Expectations

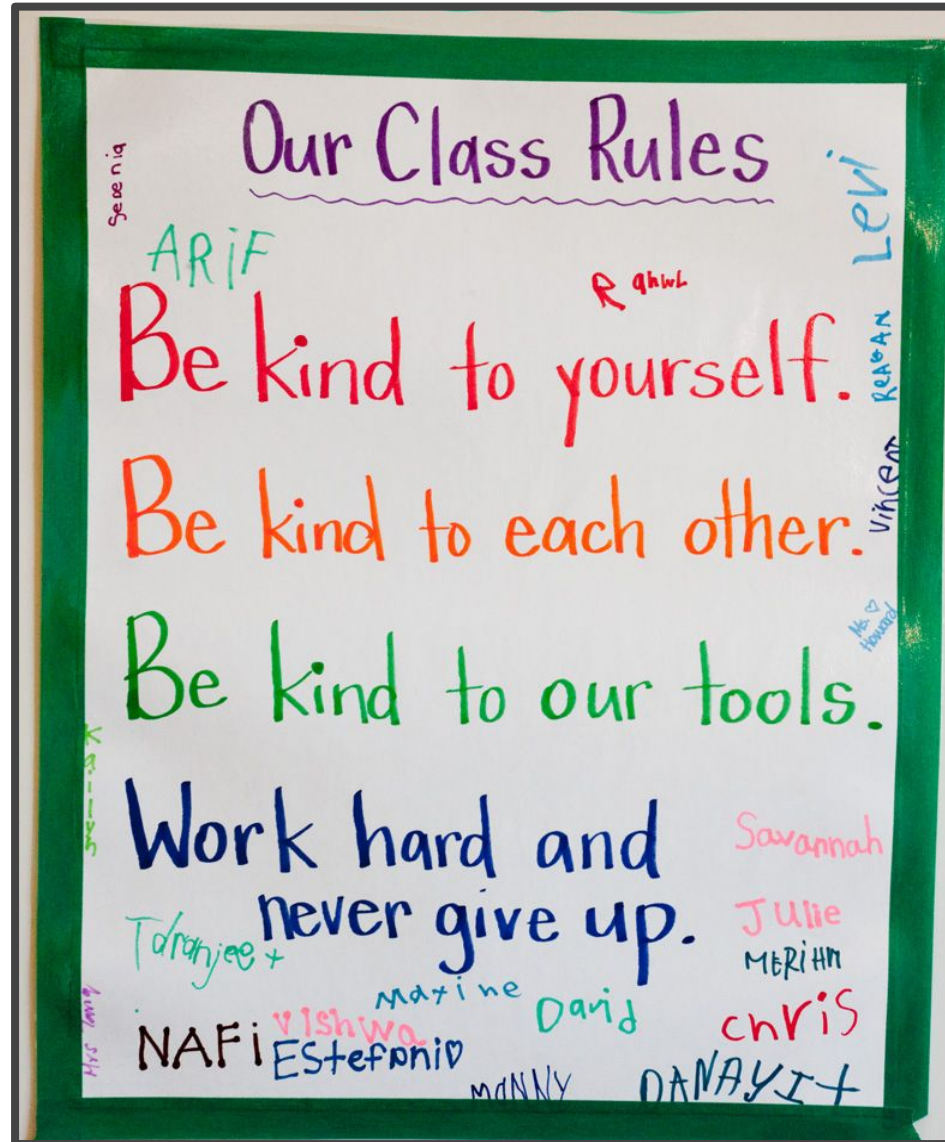
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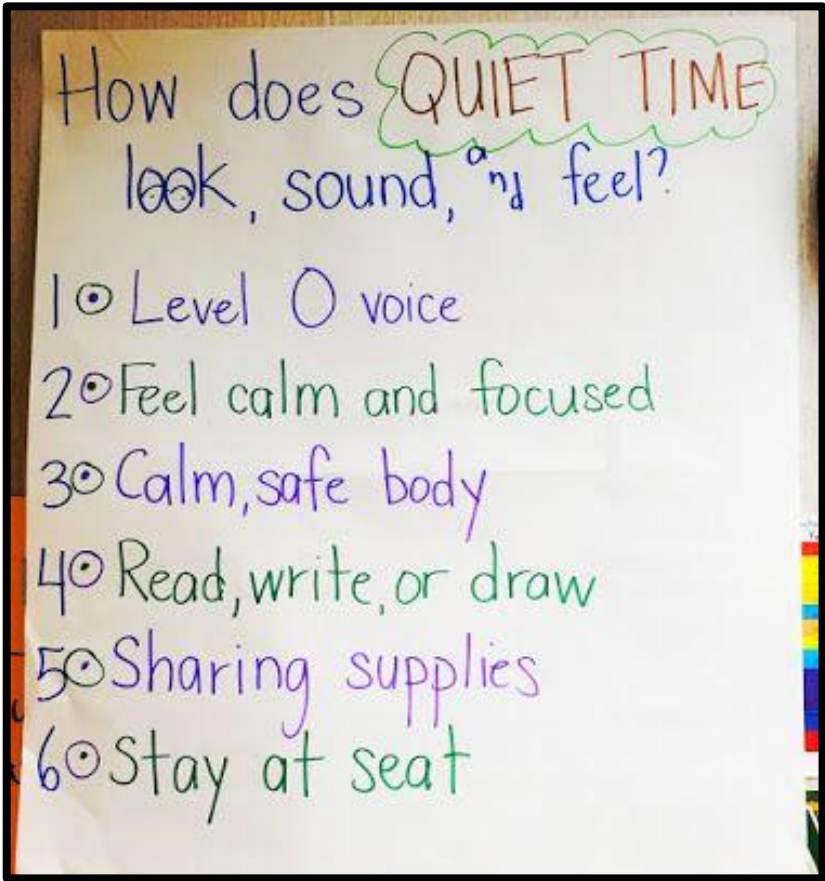
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math



lunch



gym



music

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Next up...

Acknowledging
Appropriate
Behavior



RUSTY'S RECOGNITION

Proudly Presented To

for

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Date

