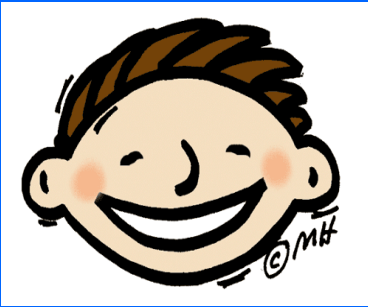


Stonegate Elementary School

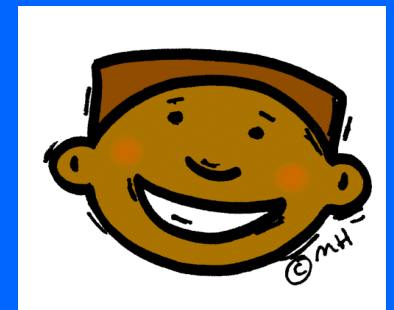
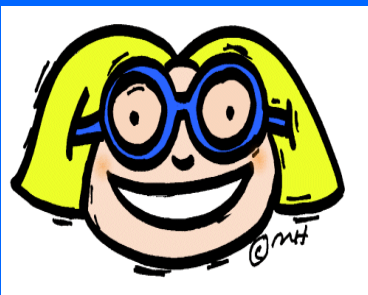
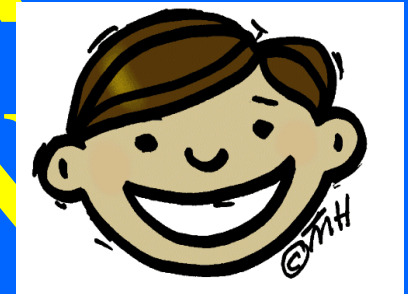


Character Education at Stonegate Elementary School

Jaclyn Berning
School Counselor
Stonegate Elementary School
PreService Week 2010



CHARACTER EDUCATION



Stonegate Mission Statement :



Stonegate's mission as a caring community is to foster the growth of life-long learners by communicating high expectations and standards through respect, flexibility, and collaboration.

Stonegate Core Values :

✓ RESPONSIBILITY

✓ RESPECT

✓ COLLABORATION

✓ COMMITMENT



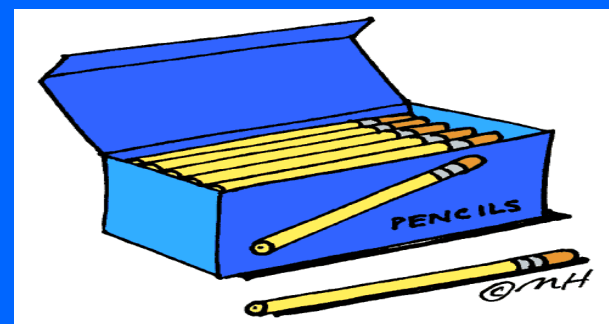
Character Education and The School Counselor

The school counselor teaches skills in the Five MCPS Student Counseling Standards: Academic, Personal, Interpersonal, Career, and Healthy Development.

In alignment with these MCPS Student Counseling Standards, the Stonegate counselor will teach specifically to the Stonegate Core Values: Responsibility, Respect, Collaboration and Commitment.

Character Education: Individual Counseling

The school counselor addresses individual needs, and concerns which can impede academic achievement. Students can self-refer themselves to see the counselor when needed through “*Catch the Counselor*” forms located in the blue sand buckets in each classroom. Students then place these in the counselor’s sand bucket located on the table outside the counseling classroom. Parents and teachers can also refer their students to see the counselor at any time without a form.



Counselor Student Communication



“Catch the Counselor” (Grades 2-5)

Student Name: _____

Student Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location of Concern/Problem (Circle) :

Bus * Bathroom * Classroom * Cafeteria * Recess * Hallway * Other

Which Core Value does your situation best match? (Circle)

RESPONSIBILITY * RESPECT * COLLABORATION * COMMITMENT

Counselor Student Communication



“Catch the Counselor” (Grades K-2)

Student Name: _____

Student Teacher: _____

Date: _____

I am feeling...(Circle the way you feel on the back.)



Counselor Student Communication: Grades K-2

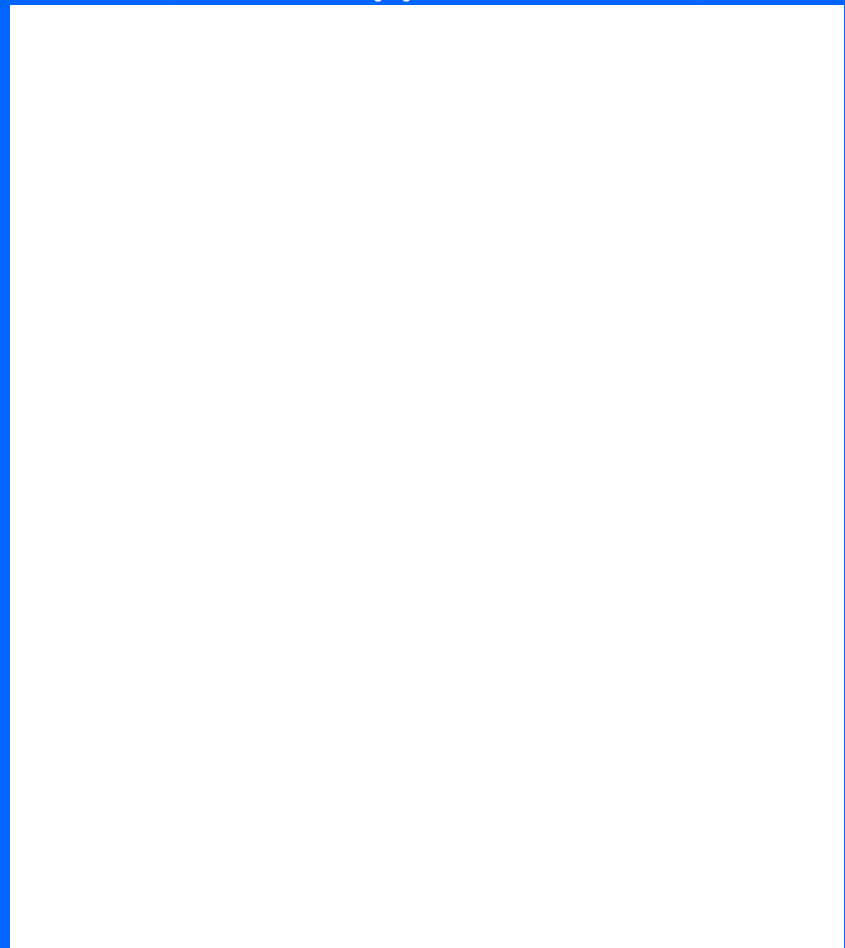


I feel _____ ...

OR

I feel _____ ...

(Draw the way you feel in the box.)



Character Education: Small Group Counseling



The school counselor leads small groups to teach skills and provide support in specific areas of need such as improving social interactions with peers, improving classroom behavior, adjustment to school, family changes, study skills, organizational skills, self-concept and esteem, and coping skills. Small groups will focus on the Stonegate Core Values as well. Groups are 30 minutes in duration, meet during the lunch/recess hour for 6-8 weeks, and groups consist of about 4-6 students.

Character Education: Classroom Guidance Lessons

Classroom lessons are a collaborative effort between teachers and counselors. The counselor works with the teachers to meet the needs of each classroom. Lessons are focused on the Stonegate Core Values as well as the 5 MCPS Student Counseling Standards. Some topics within these areas of development may include:

- Study Skills
- Learning Styles
- Conflict Resolution
- Confidence building
- Decision making
- Goal setting
- Effective communication
- Careers
- Personal safety



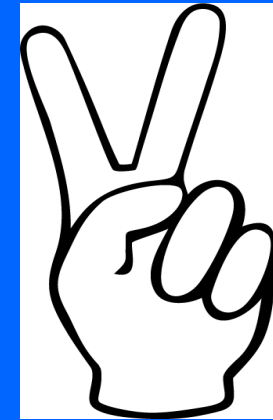


Character Education: Incentives/Rewarding Positive Behavior

When a staff member feels a student is displaying one of the Core Values, the student will earn a Shark to go in the Shark Tank. At the end of every two weeks, students who were randomly drawn from the Shark Tank, will then have their names recognized on the announcements in addition to receiving a reward. They will also have their picture posted in the hallway on the counselor bulletin board.

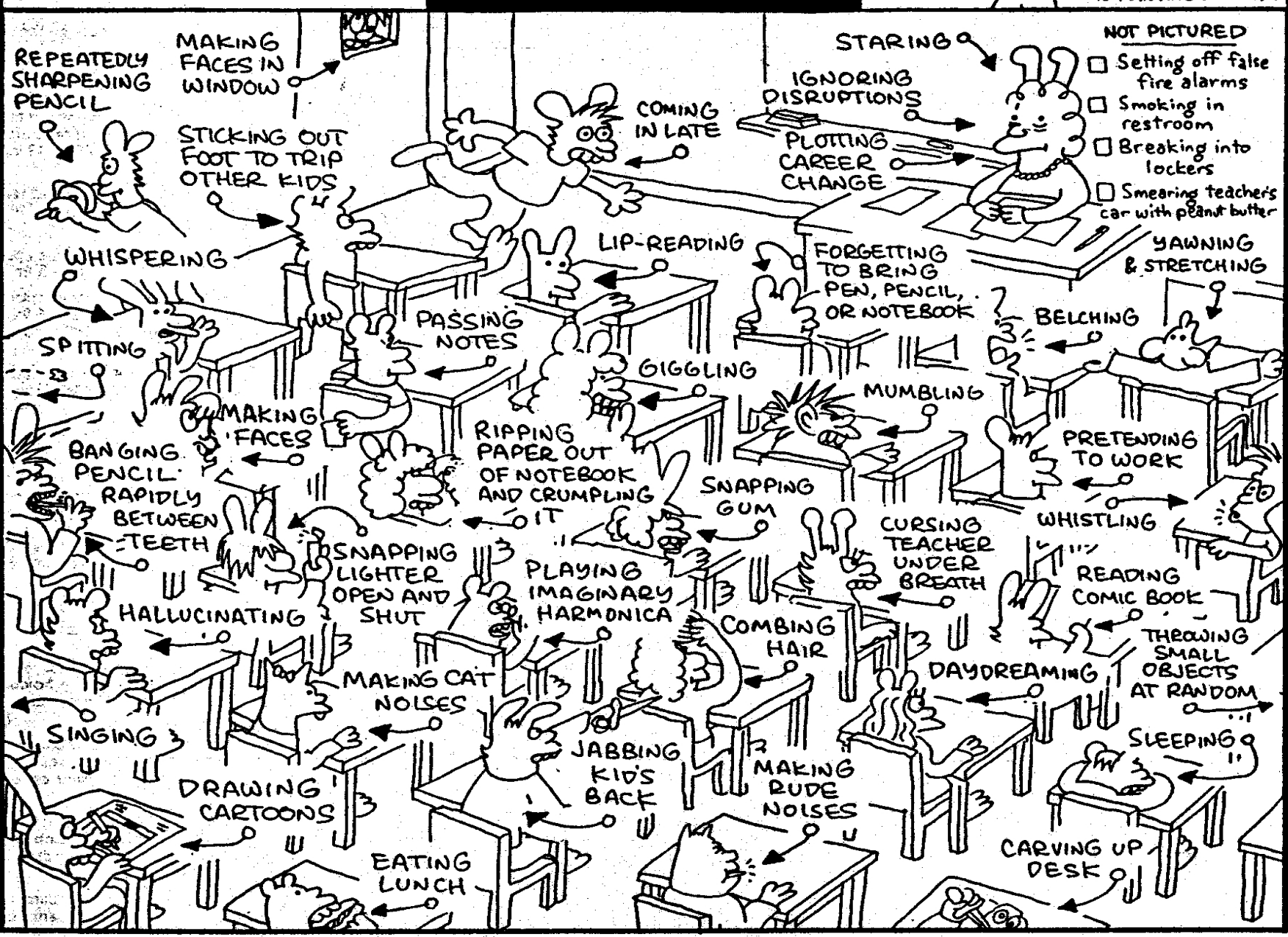


Peace Days



Another school-wide incentive is a Peace Day. A Peace Day is a day when all Stonegate Elementary Students follow all Core Values: Responsibility, Respect, Collaboration, and Commitment.

Working as a team, the goal is for students to avoid being referred to the office due to inappropriate behavior.



Keeping it Consistent

- Establish a Routine
- Expect the Same Behavior from All Students
- Encourage/Model Behaviors
- Implement/Enforce School-Wide Programs and Rules
- Identify Whole Class Behaviors
- Keep Track of How You React
- Analyze Classroom Trends/Themes



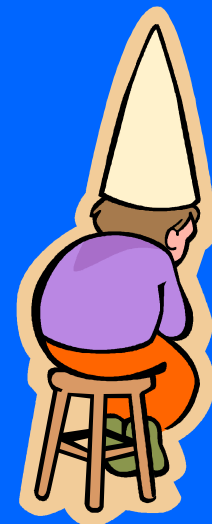
Keeping it Consistent: Stonegate Behavior Matrix



- The Core Values of Responsibility, Respect, Collaboration and Commitment should be taught and emphasized in all school settings. This includes the hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms, classrooms, and even on the bus/community for walkers.
- Students will know what behaviors are expected in each area of the school environment, as posters with examples will be displayed throughout Stonegate Elementary School.

Keeping it Consistent: Student Discipline Resources

- Discipline Procedure Flowchart:
Classroom Environment and Teacher Strategies
- Behavior Matrix:
Discouraging Inappropriate Behaviors (Promoting
School-Wide Consistency)
- Shark Award (Revised):
Recognizing Consistent Behaviors





* Ask your Team Leaders to share information presented during Leadership Week.

Implementation of Peer Mediation: P.A.L.S



Peers
Available to
Listen and
Support



Implementation of Peer Mediation: P.A.L.S

- Program will support Stonegate students during recess times
- Older children will serve as role models/leaders and will help younger children peacefully resolve simple disputes
- P.A.L.S will be trained to mediate minor issues
- Mediators will be nominated by staff members
- P.A.L.S will need a permission slip signed by parent/guardian in order to participate

Closing Thoughts

With the implementation of Character Education through the use of Core Values and Peace Days the students at Stonegate Elementary School are informed about behavioral expectations in a positive manner. With these school-wide procedures, students are more likely to make appropriate behavioral choices, therefore, eliminating any bullying or lack of Character Education as portrayed in previous data.



“We need to be the change we want to see happen. We are the leaders we have been waiting for.”

**-Mahatma
Gandhi**