August 29, 2012

Dear Parents,

In order to create a positive learning environment at Flower Valley Elementary School, the PEACE and Friendship Program has been developed and will continue to be implemented. The purpose of the PEACE and Friendship Program is to identify, describe, encourage, and strengthen the behaviors that lead to peace and friendship. We believe these skills will benefit our students for their time at FVES and throughout their lives.

**Contract**

Please read and discuss the attached Flower Valley Elementary School PEACE and Friendship Program description with your child. After reviewing this document, please sign as indicated below and return the document to your child’s teacher.

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Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature Date

We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to working with you and your child towards a more peaceful and friendly world.

Sincerely,

Gay Melnick

Principal

**PEACE and Friendship Program**

**Flower Valley Elementary School**

**2012-2013**

In order to create a positive learning environment at Flower Valley Elementary School, the PEACE and Friendship Program has been developed. The purpose of the PEACE and Friendship Program is to identify, describe, encourage, and strengthen the behaviors that lead to peace and friendship. We believe these skills will benefit our students for their time at FVES and throughout their lives.

**Philosophy**

We believe that the most important function of our school is learning. Our goal is to provide a peaceful and friendly learning environment for all children who attend Flower Valley Elementary School. The philosophy of the PEACE and Friendship Program is to strengthen behaviors that will enable the child to behave in a peaceful and friendly manner, not just at Flower Valley, but throughout their lives.

The PEACE and Friendship Program acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of students while informing students, staff, and parents/guardians of the expectations for peaceful and friendly behavior at school.

**Ground Rules**

Follow Procedures

Be Responsible

Respect Ourselves and Others

Help Others

Always do Our Best

**Flower Valley Peace Pledge**

The Peace Pledge is recited each morning at Flower Valley Elementary School immediately after The Pledge of Allegiance.

We the students of Flower Valley Elementary School, promise to respect each other. We will keep our hands, feet to ourselves. We pledge to work out any problems that may happen with our peers in a peaceful way.

**PEACE**

Prepared Esteemed Accountable Careful Effort

**Expected Behaviors:**

The following table lists expected behaviors according to our Ground Rules and PEACE and Friendship Program:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cafeteria** | **Hallway** | **Playground** | **Bathroom** |
| Prepared | Walk | 1. Single file facing forward | 1. Appropriate use of equipment 2. Be a good sport | 1. Clean up after yourself |
| Esteemed | 1. Ready to listen 2. Clean up after yourself | 1. Appreciate displayed work | 1. Share and include everyone 2. Use friendly words 3. Ready to listen | 1. Keep private |
| Accountable | 1. Be prepared 2. Eat your own food | 1. Have a purpose 2. Have a Buddy | 1. Be prepared 2. Have fun | 1. Flush and wash 2. Have a purpose |
| Careful | 1. Soft Voices 2. Hands and feet to ourselves 3. Stay in your seat | 1. Hands and feet to yourself | 1. Hands and feet to yourself | 1. Quiet voices 2. Hands and feet to yourself |
| Effort | 1. Remind your peers to keep soft voices, recycle, and throw trash away | 1. Walk 2. Keep Quiet voices | 1. Line up and remind your peers to line up when the warning bell rings 2. Pick up all playground equipment | 1. Report any inappropriate behaviors |

**Acknowledgements:**

Because we believe that our students will behave in a peaceful and friendly manner, we want to acknowledge the behavior. When students exhibit extraordinarily peaceful or friendly behavior, he or she can be acknowledged and given a peace token. Students will place their peace tokens in the jars in the main hall. Each Friday, peace tokens will be randomly selected to be read during the morning announcements.

**Supportive Actions:**

When a child is struggling to make peaceful, friendly choices, the following actions may be taken in order to support the student. Because every situation is different and each child’s needs are unique, the action taken is an exercise of the judgment of the staff member who handles the incident. In the event that you should disagree with the judgment of the staff member, an appeal should be made to the principal.

* Conference with student
* Loss of privilege
* Removal from situation
* Parent notification
* Parent conference
* Behavior contract
* Notification of the principal
* Conference with the principal
* After school detention
* Monetary restitution for stolen/damaged property
* In school suspension
* Suspension from school
* Expulsion from school
* Referral to police

**Office Referral**

When a student requires the support of a school administrator in order to resume peaceful and friendly behavior, a referral must be made using the myMCPS Office Referral. The purpose of the office referral is to provide a centralized location and quick communication process for all teachers and staff to document an office referral when needed.

**MCPS Policy**

More information can be found in the Student Rights and Responsibilities document that all students receive and is available online at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/.