



DCE IS NOW A PBIS SCHOOL!

Beginning this school year (2019-2020), DCE will implement a process of school improvement called PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). Through PBIS, our students will develop and learn social, emotional, and behavioral competence while supporting their academic engagement and achievement. Our educators will develop a positive, predictable, and safe environment that will promote strong interpersonal relationships with students through teaching, modeling, and encouragement.

PBIS is being implemented in schools across Arkansas and the nation. Drew Central is the first district in this educational cooperative area to embrace this process of thinking in a public school. As we implement PBIS with fidelity, our students and staff will experience the following long term improvements:

- Reduction in major disciplinary infractions, antisocial behavior, and substance abuse.
- Reduction in aggressive behavior and improvements in emotional regulation.
- Improvements in academic engagement and achievement.
- Improvements in perceptions of organizational health and school safety.
- Reductions in teacher and student reported bullying behavior and victimization.
- Improvements in perceptions of school climate
- Reductions in teacher turnover.

Drew Central's Elementary School faculty and staff are committed to PBIS. We believe that by working as a team and successfully implementing PBIS, we will contribute to the development of a more positive school climate, increased school safety, and much improved student-educator relationships.

Through PBIS, our DCE team will explicitly teach our students how to practice, and encourage positive social skills across settings and individuals. Besides the explicit teaching of high expectations, the main premise behind PBIS is to reward the students who consistently make good choices. There will be outstanding rewards that will be given to the students who meet the "Pirate PRIDE" expectations each month.

Our DCE Leadership Team recently created a behavior matrix with **PRIDE** (Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence) as our theme (see below). These are the areas that we will be focusing on, both inside and outside of the classrooms. Our teachers will use specific lesson plans to implement and increase expectations in all areas of the matrix.

I would be happy to talk to you more about our new exciting venture. We will use discipline and attendance data to guide our process. We realize that all of these changes will not take place during the first year. PBIS has been in place in schools across America for more than 20 years. It is a 3-5 year investment of our time and energy to get it fully implemented.

It is my sincere hope that your child will have "Pirate PRIDE" each and every day!

Sincerely,
Trudy Jackson, Principal