



Farragut Middle School

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A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Gail Kipper
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Farragut Middle School is continuing our important initiative called Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a process for creating a safer and more effective school. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all students by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific plans. PBIS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for all students and all staff in all settings. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

We have adopted a unified set of school-wide expectations. Similar to the district's "Code of Conduct", these expectations define appropriate behaviors in our school. You will see these expectations posted throughout the school in the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, auditoriums, and other locations. Your child will be reviewing these expectations during his/her first days in school. Each behavioral expectation will be defined and examples will be described. Each student has received a matrix detailing these behaviors and a copy for you is attached. Our unified expectations are as follows:

- ◆ Be responsible;
- ◆ Be respectful;
- ◆ Be a problem solver;
- ◆ Be safe.

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To keep students focused on these expectations in a positive manner, the students will accumulate reinforcements that can be turned into a series of rewards. This reward system is continually being evaluated and student input will be encouraged.

We believe that this approach will be valuable to every student at FMS. Please encourage your child to ask questions and be positive role models. Information regarding PBIS will be linked to our district web-page.

Sincerely,

Gail Kipper

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