

West Sioux Falcon Newsletter

Covering Grades 6-12

School Improvement Initiative

Clarifying Consistent Expectations for Students

In late May of this year, a group of twelve to fifteen staff members and the principal started meeting on a weekly basis to discuss issues and ideas about the West Sioux Middle School and High School students. A great number of topics were brought up and addressed over the many hours of collaboration that lasted into August.

The main focus of the meetings was student behaviors and their affect on student success. As time progressed, it was decided that thirteen items were major concerns that needed some change. The results of these modifications did not come quickly, easily or without heated debate. The final product was a list of problems, actions, and consequences that the "School Improvement Group" felt were fair and equitable. The ultimate goal was to always keep the student first and maintain educational excellence.

It was acknowledged that not all of these situations would go without controversy, nor would every case be identical to the pattern. Nevertheless, the standard was now set. Some of these items and ideas have already been changed. The group still meets to discuss feelings, emotions, and facts from students, parents and the public. Groups of four or five teachers of all of the middle school/high school staff meet weekly to determine improving and declining areas. A middle school/high school survey, sometimes anonymous, is reviewed each Monday morning to look for problem areas and check on the program's progress and maintenance. Teachers, staff, and administration are pleased at this time with the changes that have been seen, now at the end of the first quarter.

"I really feel that these expectations and the continuity among teachers and classes is really a great benefit to all teachers and students! I thank all those who spent time this summer working on the matrix!"

-Jennie Antonson, MS/HS Teacher

Continuation of the initiative, as well as adaptations, will be considered through the remainder of the year. West Sioux's continual pursuit of excellence in education was always paramount in this endeavor. It will continue to be so even more now and in the future, with changes in the federal government's "No Child Left Behind" and Iowa's new mandatory "Core Curriculum". As always, questions and comments are encouraged and welcomed at the administration office.

Expectations for Student Behavior

<u>Concern</u>	<u>Expectation</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Hallway Roamers	Students will be in classrooms	Student's #1 job is being present in the classroom
Dress Code	Students will dress in an acceptable manner	There shouldn't be distractions to learning
Bookbags in Hallways	Bookbags will be carried or stored in lockers	Bookbags are a safety hazard when left in halls
Electronic Devices	Electronic devices will not be used during school (8-3:45)	There shouldn't be distractions to learning
Tardy to Class	Students will be in the classroom when the bell rings	Student's #1 job is being present in the classroom
Rowdiness in Hallway	Students should behave properly in the hallways	Student safety needs to be maintained
Food Outside of Lunchroom	Food is kept in lunchroom or designated classroom	Food is left in hallway, causing a mess. Disruptive to learning
Wearing Hats in Building	Hats should not be worn in the building	Removing hats in a building is proper etiquette and a sign of respect
Sitting Somewhere Other than Benches	Students should sit on benches, or stand, or sit in commons or a classroom	Student safety needs to be maintained
Rowdiness in Locker Rooms	Students should behave properly in locker rooms	Student safety needs to be maintained
Bullying/Harassment	Students should be treated with respect	There shouldn't be distractions to learning
Coming to Class Without Materials	Students will come to class prepared to learn	Students need to be prepared to learn
Attendance	Students will be in classrooms	Student's #1 job is being present in the classroom

STUDENT SAFETY: TO ENSURE STUDENT SAFETY, ALL VISITORS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE CHECK INTO THE OFFICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO BE ISSUED A VISITOR PASS.