

## TIME TO LEARN

### “WE CARE TOO MUCH TO LET PROBLEM BEHAVIOR INTERFERE WITH LEARNING.”

Students learn best when they feel safe and respected at school. Rules and routine give students a feeling of security and reinforce the skills every student must have to be successful learners. This success is critical to self-esteem and learning responsibility. Here are some of our beliefs:

1. *Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.* Our goal is treat every child with unconditional positive regard.
2. *Good Discipline is only a matter of good timing.* We take a proactive, rather than a reactive approach to addressing problem behaviors by teaching the correct way to do things **before** misbehavior occurs.
3. *Conflict is an essential part of growing up.* Challenging behaviors are a child's way of asking: “Do you care enough to set limits for me.” Predictability and clear limits will reduce conflict and promote self-esteem.
4. *Most behavior, positive and poor, is learned.* There is much that the school staff can do to teach the student behaviors that lead to success and self-respect.

### TEACH TO'S

We try to avoid making the assumption that our students come to us knowing how to behave in a school setting. During the first week of the year we will spend a lot of time teaching very specific skills and procedures related to the classroom and school. We call these lessons “teach to's.”

### REFOCUS

You will probably hear your student talk about “Refocus.” When a problem behavior occurs we intervene early by asking the student to move to a new location and think about these questions:

1. What was my behavior?
2. What should I have been doing?
3. Am I ready to rejoin my class and do that?

Refocusing does not mean the student is in trouble, but rather he or she has done something to interfere with learning in some way, and it is the opportunity to self-correct and quickly resume learning.

### ACADEMY

If the problem becomes serious, students may be invited to Lunch or After-school Academy to make up learning time lost during Refocus

### ABSOLUTES

“Absolutes” have been developed by students and staff, and are behaviors that will **never** be tolerated at school. Students will be sent home if they break an “Absolute.”

Here are our “Absolutes”:

1. **No violence, threats of violence, or anything that looks like violence.**
2. **No weapons, not even toys.**
3. **No alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.**



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