

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast New Hope Program



February Staff
meeting: February 16th @
3:30



Happy Valentine's Day!

Spotlight on Vancleave Upper Elementary

As a Behavior Specialist at Vancleave Upper Elementary, my job is to work with specific students in the Special Education Program and to consult with the regular education students as they go through the school's Tier process. I was asked to join our school's Vision Team to help create a school-wide behavior plan. As the behavioral advisor on the team, I was allowed to make some suggestions for the school-wide plan; these changes were aimed at encouraging our students to maintain appropriate behavior throughout the school setting.

Each grade level has an incentive program, which is specifically designed for their grade. These incentive programs serve to encourage good behavior in each individual student. The incentives are set up for both short-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals were important in order to ensure students do not become discouraged if they lose their long-term goal.

"Fill the Dog Bowl" is for each class. An empty dog bowl is posted in the hallway outside of each classroom. Custodians, cafeteria workers, support staff, and administration have "good behavior bone tickets" to give away during the school day to students/classes who exhibit exceptionally good behavior. When a class fills their dog bowl with twenty-five bones, an incentive is earned. Each class is able to earn extra recess or a free jeans day as an incentive for appropriate behavior.

The plan was implemented with "Good Dawg Training" during the first 3 days of school. This training was done throughout the day as teachers walked their students through their daily schedules. They explained rules and expectations for behavior in each setting. The students and teachers practiced the proper hallway,

bathroom, cafeteria, and bus loading behavior, as well as activity class rules. Classes had to successfully complete the training before they were able to begin earning bones from the designated staff members.

To kick off our school-wide plan, we had a pep rally to get our students excited about the new program. Before the pep rally, teachers returned a survey that I distributed to them in their end-of-year packets. This survey was designed by the Vision Team to highlight the students' areas of behavioral difficulty. The list of identified behaviors was compiled and reconstructed as a skit, which was written by me. The skit was performed by several of our dedicated, caring teachers who stepped outside of their typical role to act out various behavioral situations and demonstrate how they should be handled. Teachers and students enjoyed the skit.

This program has been successfully in place since the beginning of the school year. As a result, students are more aware of their behavior, while motivation to earn twenty-five bones remains high based on students' excitement.

Submitted by: Kristin McKee, Behavior Specialist



Teachers from Vancleave Upper Elementary act in behavioral expectations skit.

An Incentive Program at St. Martin High

At St. Martin High School, I began a program with a group of students on my caseload where they earn incentives for meeting their goals. These goals are developed based on IEP objectives, as well as input from the students' case managers. Each case manager is consulted concerning the targeted goals and adjustments are made accordingly. The two behavior goals, along with a social skill, are targeted for a two-week period. If students meet their goal during the first week, a new goal is identified for the remainder of the program. To keep track of progress, the students carry a point card for the teachers to sign off on when they achieve their goal for a class period. At the end of the two-week period, the students are ranked according to the number of points they earned, as well as overall percentage of appropriate behavior recorded. The student with the most points wins an individual award, while all students who meet their targeted goal enjoy a group incentive, such as a pizza party.

Submitted by:
Victoria Williams, Behavior Specialist