Staff Development Newsletter

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Celebrating New Beginnings

I want to begin this newsletter by thanking the entire staff for making me feel welcome and a valued member of Seward Public Schools. I know that we have many new staff members in our district, and I thank you for supporting them on their professional journey. Please also take the time to think about new students entering our district for the first time and how we can welcome them to our school culture.

Marzano Design Area

Each month I will be featuring a Marzano Design Area and I will also be adding my perspective to the topic. My hope is that by aligning our focus we will create a greater understanding of our instructional model as a staff. This month the focus for the newsletter is implementing rules and procedures.

To introduce this element, please think about the following questions and how you would answer them. What do I do to establish rules and procedures? What will I do to make the physical layout of the classroom the most conducive to learning? What do I do to demonstrate withitness? (alert and aware of what is occurring in the classroom at all times) What will I do to acknowledge adherence to rules and procedures? What will I do to acknowledge lack of adherence to rules and procedures?

Classroom management, setting effective routines and procedures, reinforcing positive behavior and calling out inappropriate behavior are paramount to success in the classroom. Think about the many procedures you have in place in your classroom. What procedure do you think needs some fine-tuning? Try breaking this routine into small parts, how could you teach these small parts to students? Take the time now to fix the routine, it will save you time in the future.

This is the time of the year that you will see small behaviors from students- these behaviors are sometimes called Gateway behaviors. They are Gateway behaviors because they often lead to something bigger when not addressed. Students allowed to roll their eyes in September may use more outward acts of defiance in March. My best advice is to call it when you see it and let those students know that you care so much about them, that you will hold them accountable for lifelong behavior success.

How will we know when we are experiencing success in this design area? When you are experiencing success in this area you will notice that students will take on more ownership of the systems, structures, and routines in your classroom. Students will support you in holding other students accountable for the processes set up in their learning environment. When the foundation has been set with clear behavior expectations, routines, and procedures you will have more time to facilitate a deeper level of learning and make stronger connections with students.