

Promising Practices Application for "Discovery Ridge Elementary"

Part 1: Applicant Information

Basic Information

Full name of school

Discovery Ridge Elementary

School district

Wentzville School District

Address 1

2523 Sommers Road

Address 2**City**

O Fallon

State/Province

Missouri

Zip/Postal Code

63367

Country

USA

Main phone number (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

636-561-2354

Website

www.wentzville.k12.mo.us

Contact Information

Prefix

Mrs.

First name

Laura

Last name

Bates

Title or Position

Principal

E-mail

laurabates@wentzville.k12.mo.us

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

636-561-2354

Name

Sarah Teague

E-mail

sarahteague@wentzville.k12.mo.us

Prefix

Mrs.

First name

Last name

Title or Position

E-mail

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

Name of principal

Laura Bates

Is he/she supportive of this application?

Yes

Demographics

Setting

Suburban

Grade levels

K-5

Category of grade levels

Elementary

Student enrollment

519

Describe your student demographics

Discovery Ridge has a wonderful makeup of 519 students. The school opened in August 2010. We have 3.5% Asian students, 6.1% African American students, 2.8% Hispanic students, 0.5% Indian students, and 86.7% White students. 23.6% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Additional Information

Year practice began

2010

How did you hear about this program/application?

Other

Part 2: Overview

Overview

Name of the practice exactly as you wish it to appear

Discovery Ridge Elementary Space Mission

This practice implements the following Principle(s): [Check all that apply]

- Principle 1: Promotes core values.
- Principle 9: Fosters shared leadership.
- Principle 11: Assesses the culture and climate of the school.

This practice fits under the following Topic(s): [Check all that apply]

- Assessment & Action
- Behavior Management / Positive Discipline
- Bullying / Peer Currelty Prevention
- Class Meetings / Cooperative Learning
- Integration into Curriculum
- Older Students
- Orientations / Welcoming
- Staff Development / Student Leadership
- Student Autonomy / Empowerment
- Student-led Assessments
- Relationship Building
- Teaching / Learning of Core Values
- Visual Display of Core Values

Enter a one-sentence description of your practice

Through the Discovery Ridge Elementary Space Mission, students lead their peers in understanding and assessing the application of the school's core values and expectations.

Enter a one-paragraph description of your practice

The Space Mission is our school's way of teaching students the core values and expected behaviors in all areas of our school. Through our implementation of Caring School Community and Positive Behavior Supports, students and staff have developed a matrix outlining what each of our core values look like in nine different areas of our school. Our core values are respect, responsibility, and caring. The areas of our school include the school as a whole, classrooms, playground, cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, buses, assemblies, and the car rider dismissal area. Throughout the year, Discovery Ridge holds at least two Space Missions. The first takes place during the first two weeks of school in August to initially teach the expectations. The second Space Mission takes place in January during the first two weeks following winter break. Our staff members have the autonomy to decide if additional Space Mission reviews are needed, such as following Spring Break, for areas where students may be having difficulty demonstrating and understanding appropriate behaviors.

Upload a digital photo of your practice in action. Be sure that if students appear in the photo that you have followed your school/district's release policies. As a last resort, if you do not have a photo of your practice or an action shot that represents your school, you may attach a photo of your school building.

[IMG_1900.jpg](#)

Part 3: Practice Information

Practice Information

What is the practice and how have you implemented it in your school or district?

The purpose of the Space Mission is to actively teach all students our school core values (respect, responsibility, and caring) and expectations specific to different locations within the school. A space station with a rocket ship visual is at each location. Each classroom is represented on the rocket ship by a double-sided badge labeled "Team-In-Training" and "Mission Complete". In August teachers implement Positive Behavior Support lesson plans designed to teach the expectations of each core value at defined locations throughout the school. The lesson plans allow teachers to explain the importance of, model, and practice the expectations. At this point in the Space Mission, classrooms are considered a "Team-In-Training". Teachers continue to model and reteach the expectations. Students practice and then discuss their progress in a Caring School Community class meeting format to self-assess if they are applying core values and expectations "everywhere all of the time" thereby achieving the goal of "Mission Complete". Students now not only apply but have also internalized the ethical reasoning for the expectations. Following winter break, classroom badges return to "Team-In-Training". Our core values and expectations are revisited through the Space Mission. Trained student leaders facilitate a class meeting at each space station to analyze what is going well and to problem-solve what needs improvement. Once solutions are created and implemented students self-assess and determine when they have reached "Mission Complete". Throughout the school year, students and teachers are given the autonomy (voice and choice) to review the core values and expectations. This is often done through a class meeting format with the staff and students involved

How does the specific practice contribute to character development?

The Space Mission provides students with an opportunity to develop autonomy, belonging, and competency while internalizing the school's core values and expectations. The goal of the Space Mission is to develop students that independently choose to make ethical decisions based on an understanding of the societal benefit of those choices. The Space Mission aligns with the Character Education Partnership's Principles 1, 2, 7, and 11. Students contributed to the selection of the core values and performance values. Belonging is developed as Ambassadors, our student character leaders, facilitate class meetings in which peers discuss why some behaviors are right and others are wrong. This setting provides autonomy for students as they each have a voice. The expectations, which are aligned with our core values, are then practiced at each Space Mission location. Students also hold class meetings to analyze if they have demonstrated competency in consistently practicing the expectations and understanding of why those expectations are moral behaviors. The class can then celebrate and recognize the natural consequences of their positive actions.

What impact is the practice having on students in your school or district?

Implementation of our Space Mission has created a caring and positive school climate where students are internalizing our core values and expectations. Our goal for students is to practice the expectations and understand how to apply them to daily life and why they are necessary in our greater community. This practice has been noted to increase our common language of expectations among our staff and students allowing for consistency from class to class. The matrix has also broadened student awareness of how our core values can be applied in the greater community. Our students have taken leadership in seeking out service learning projects for our school community. As we implement this practice for the second year our data shows that office discipline referrals are drastically lower than national averages from schools which implement Positive Behavior Intervention and Support alone. The PBIS national average is that 2.34% of students have 6 or more discipline referrals within one school year. In 2011, at Discovery Ridge, only 0.2% of our students had 6 or more referrals. This has yielded a school climate in which students are achieving at high levels academically.