PBIS 101 for Parents
PBIS is a statewide initiative for School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Washington became a PBIS school in 2014. The Washington PBIS team attended intensive training and still remains active and is constantly evaluating and making positive changes to our program. In 2020 Washington received a PBIS exemplar award that recognizes schools for their continued PBIS implementation. At Washington PBIS is referred to as “Purple P.R.I.D.E”. The children know and recite the purple pride promise, “Be Positive, Show Respect, Include Others and Do Your Best Everyday.”
Why does PBIS work?

At Washington.... We strive to create an environment that focuses on positive choices. Staff at Washington focus on and reward children for positive behavior choices. PBIS is not a curriculum, but a process of planning and problem solving that includes direct teaching of social behaviors. The PBIS approach is proactive and teaches clearly defined behavior expectations throughout the school. It is this positive climate at Washington that has led to a reduction in office discipline reports, improved climate and an overall positive feeling throughout the school.
What are the PBIS key components?

PBIS at Washington focuses heavily on the positive. Children receive purple pride slips for positive behavior choices, Children can be the weekly purple pride winner, earn school-wide monthly spirit days and then work towards an end of the trimester whole school assembly. Another key component of PBIS is the instructional piece. Children at Washington can access the PAWS room which is a take a break spot that helps correct problem behaviors before they become bigger problems. In addition, children that are experiencing frequent behavior difficulties take part in Tier II behavior days. These days are instructive sessions that focus on problem behaviors. During these Tier II sessions children learn replacement behaviors, problem solving skills, and how to repair harm.
Can parents be involved?

Yes! Research shows that parent involvement in a child’s school experience greatly increases their chances for academic success, positive behavior, higher self-esteem, better attendance and greater motivation. At Washington, we have a parent representative on our PBIS team and they are involved in the day to day decision making regarding PBIS. We also solicit parent feedback through surveys and emails regarding their satisfaction with PBIS. The Washington PBIS team uses these surveys to guide our program and make needed changes.

“A proactive strategy for defining, teaching and supporting student behavior resulting in academic and social gains and a positive school environment”

- MN Department of Education