



August 2011







Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year here at Sam Houston Elementary. We are thoroughly excited about our upcoming time together. Here at SHE our motto is "You make a difference at Sam Houston" which is a concept that is applied to all aspects of our school. "You make a difference" simply means that we are going to do what is in the best interest of your child every day. This is accomplished by training the staff on the best instructional strategies, embedding a leadership plan that prepares students for life, and by implementing a behavioral model that centers on prevention.

Our new discipline plan for this year here at SHE is called Positive Behavior Support (PBS), with the primary goal of teaching the appropriate behavior. PBS focuses on prevention, data gathering, and maximizing instructional time. Current research indicates that on average students receive 3.5 hours of instruction each day, but PBS schools boast an average of 4.5 hours a day.

Most discipline plans that are currently being instituted fall into the "wait to fail" mode of delivery, meaning that a student misbehaves and is then punished. The punishment cycle of the "wait to fail" model continues repeatedly, adding to the amount of time that the student is not in the classroom. PBS changes this cycle in that systems are set up to focus on preventing misbehavior, correcting and teaching when misbehavior does occur, and keeping your child on task and learning. A common misconception regarding PBS involves the idea that there are no consequences which is inaccurate; in addition, we still abide by the Lebanon City Schools Code of Conduct. Students will receive a consequence, but it will be a logical consequence (relating to the behavior), and it will concentrate on guiding your child toward making better choices (self regulating). The term self-regulating is the foundation of PBS and a skill that will serve students for the rest of their lives. Another important aspect of PBS is that it is consistent school wide. Every classroom and support area has the same rules and procedures for handling behavior and encouraging positive interactions.

### Traits of a PBS Classroom / School

-  Teachers will greet each student as they enter the room every morning.
-  Classes will conduct a "class meeting" each morning that focuses on setting a positive tone for the school day.
-  Each class will have a "traffic light" or chart that allows students to see when their behavior may be inappropriate and have the opportunity to self-regulate back to the intended task. If your child hits the red area during the day their teacher will note that in the agenda book. **Parent should initial or sign agenda books every day.**
-  Data will be gathered as to when students do misbehave to both chart and analyze the following: what happened, why it happened, and how do we extinguish the behavior.
-  Positive interaction: "Make a difference" tickets, verbal praise, recognition, raffle tickets, creative incentives, etc.
-  School-wide rules: PAWS: Positive Attitude, Always Respectful, Work Hard, and Safety First.

**This serves as a basic introduction for PBS and how we intend to help your child be a success. Your child's teacher will provide more information. We look forward to an amazing year!**

## **"You Make a Difference"**