

Ledyard Center School

School Climate Specialist: Principal

Ledyard Center School addresses positive school climate through its educational program. The Responsive Classroom is an approach to teaching and learning that fosters safe, rigorous, and positive experiences in the classrooms. Many classrooms adhere to the fundamentals of this approach. To accomplish this, Ledyard Center School holds daily Morning Meetings, delivers school-wide morning announcements, uses buddy classrooms, and demonstrates levels of classroom democracy and student choice whenever possible.

School-wide positive behavioral interventions are evidence-based frameworks for developing positive behavior which creates a positive climate for learning. Continual teaching, modeling, and reinforcing of positive behavior are implemented to reduce discipline problems and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety, and learning. To achieve this school wide, Ledyard Center School has developed a school-wide theme publicly identified as LCS has H.E.A.R.T.

H.E.A.R.T= Helpful, Effort, Acceptance, Respect, Thoughtful

Our school theme was created and selected by our Ledyard Center School community. It promotes character trait expectations that are celebrated at our All School Meetings and in the classrooms during Morning Meetings. The H.E.A.R.T. theme utilizes guest speakers, student performances, character education in the classroom, school-wide behavioral expectations and positive behavioral response practices.

The H.E.A.R.T. traits are recognized and awarded through acknowledgements at our all-school meetings, and in the hallways as students work towards filling the large hearts with individual paper hearts. When students demonstrate one of the characteristics of H.E.A.R.T, they can receive a paper heart their name to add to the wall.

Creating a culture of kindness has significantly decreased the number of behavior referrals to the office this year. However, there are times where students do visit the office for disciplinary matters. The Board of Education approved elementary discipline policy, found in the Student handbook, outlines logical consequences for discipline issues. Consistency in both expectations and consequences around discipline maintains a safe and orderly environment.

Lastly, Ledyard Center School designates a Safe Haven room where students who need to de-escalate from a situation can go to do so. Staffed by a trained Safe Haven paraprofessional, this space is quiet and calm, allowing students to simply take a break and regroup. Our school psychologist serves students who are in need of a more significant intervention.

Climate and Anti-Bullying Committee

The committee is comprised of the School Climate Coordinator (the principal or the designee), school staff and a parent representative. The committee meets periodically throughout the year and will meet Connecticut bullying legislation requirements. The committee analyzes student, faculty, staff and parent surveys to make informed decisions regarding the climate of the school. Additionally, the committee reviews bullying data keeping a close eye on emerging patterns or concerns.