

Lounsberry Hollow

Positive Behavior Supports in Schools (PBSIS)

Parent Manual





The Basis for how to Be on Board!

Here at Lounsberry Hollow, we really value our parents and the important role they place in our students' education. We are working hard to reach out to you more often and tell you about what we are doing and share lots of ideas about how we can make your child have a really successful school year. We hope that you will let us know how we are doing and share any feedback you have.

We are very excited to announce the introduction of a new school climate initiative at Lounsberry Hollow this year. Last year, we partnered with the New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJ PBSIS) initiative to design and implement school-wide interventions that will focus on promoting positive student behavior, improve our sense of community, and provide supports for students who need a little extra help. We are very excited about how working with NJ PBSIS is going to enhance our school! You can visit the NJ PBSIS website at www.njpbs.org.

Research suggests that schools with a positive social climate are associated with fewer occurrences of conduct problems and better student performance outcomes (e.g., achievement and attendance). Affirming positive behavior, teaching social skills, equipping teachers with the skills to meet the needs of diverse learners, getting student input, and using multi-setting interventions are all examples of recommended practices for promoting a positive school climate. While a positive school climate benefits all students, students with individualized behavior support planning needs particularly benefit when school environments are positive, welcoming, and supportive of individual needs. Through the NJ PBSIS initiative, we are learning about how to enhance our school's climate and atmosphere. In particular, we are focusing on how to:

1. Clearly **define** for students what is expected of them.
2. Be **consistent** across staff in how we talk to students about those expectations.
3. Improve our **procedures and routines** so the school day runs smoothly.
4. Provide lots of **encouragement** and social praise when students display the school expectations.
5. Make students feel **welcomed** and valued.
6. Encourage **positive interactions** between students and between students and staff.
7. Provide students with **help and support** to overcome challenges and difficulties academically, socially, and behaviorally.

We are excited to present to you an overview of how to Be on Board for Lounsberry Hollow. This manual will provide you with a list of the behavior expectations we have for our students and the exciting recognition system we are putting in place to celebrate our students accomplishments. Throughout the year we will be sharing with you ideas and suggestions for how you can talk with your child about how to Be on Board at home.

Principal



Expectations by Location

Last year, we spent time gathering information, asking parents, staff, and students for input and reviewing our office conduct referral data. We used all this information to develop specific behaviors that we want to see of our students in each location of the building.

These are the expectations that make up our **Be on Board** motto:

<p style="text-align: center;">Bus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a quiet voice and kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Follow and cooperate with adult directions ● Remain seated and facing forward at all times ● Keep the aisle clear 	<p style="text-align: center;">Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Follow and cooperate with adult directions ● Stay in designated areas ● Share equipment
<p style="text-align: center;">Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use an indoor voice and kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Follow and cooperate with adult directions ● Arrive on time and be ready ● Listen when others are speaking 	<p style="text-align: center;">Bathrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use an indoor voice and kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Flush, wash hands, throw out trash ● Return to class promptly ● Report problems to an adult
<p style="text-align: center;">Hallway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use an indoor voice and kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Follow and cooperate with adult directions ● Walk on the right ● Go directly to your destination 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cafeteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use an indoor voice and kind words ● Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Follow and cooperate with adult directions ● Clean your area ● Walk at all times



Teaching Students the Expectations

One thing we are really going to do differently this year is using an 'instructional' approach to talking with students about behavior expectations. Activities that involve modeling, discussing, and practicing the expectations will occur intermittently throughout the school year. By using an instructional approach students are more likely internalize these behaviors as regular habits. Ongoing throughout the year, we will have activities and instruction specifically targeting the behaviors we expect of our students. Some of the activities we have planned for this year include:

- Kick - Off Event
- Assemblies
- Weekly and Monthly Raffles
- Positive Behavior Incentives

Stayed tuned for updates on some of these events!

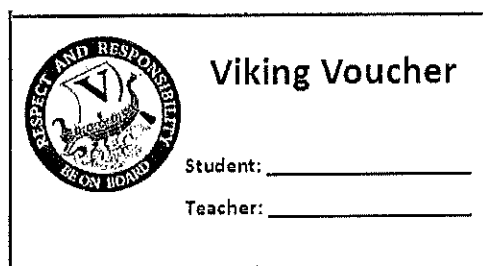
Celebrating Our Students' Accomplishments

One of the most important things we can do is give our students positive feedback for the positive choices they are making. We want them to know when they have done the right thing and that we are proud of them. To celebrate our students, we have developed a fun recognition system that we will be using at our school.

Viking Vouchers are another way of saying 'Thank you' for making a good behavior choice. Whether a small behavior (e.g., holding the door) or a big behavior (e.g., helping a friend who is being bullied) Viking Vouchers can help us reinforce the kinds of behaviors we want to see. Among the benefits of using the Viking Voucher include:

1. We encourage students to continue engaging in positive behaviors.
2. We reinforce the benefit of making good choices, so that when a student faces a 'tempting' bad choice they have the history of positive interactions with staff to firm up their resolve.
3. Viking Voucher can be very helpful to encourage students working on a behavior improvement goal to keep trying.
4. Providing praise to students helps build the positive adult-student relationship.

Here is what our Viking Voucher looks like:





Getting Involved

Some of our parents have been asking "How can I get involved in *Be on Board* at Lounsberry Hollow? We are really excited about our parents' interest and have lots of ideas for how you can help us out:

Talking with your child about the expectations

- Talk with your child about the expectations and what you expect of them at school. Hearing from you how important these expectations are will reinforce your child making positive choices. Throughout the year we will be sending home Parent Newsletters with ideas and suggestions for talking with your child about being Respectful and Responsible.
- Think about how the school expectations translate into what you expect of your child at home. What does respect and responsibility look like around the house? As you talk with your child about home routines (like chores) incorporate the language of respect and responsibility.
- Provide lots of praise when your child tells you they got a Viking Voucher. Ask them to tell you what they got it for. If they say 'I don't know' (a common kid response) ask some more questions "Who gave it to you?" "What class was it", etc. The more you get them to talk about it, the more likely they'll open up.

Volunteer at School

- Get involved with Lounsberry Hollow's SCA. Help with fundraising activities or special events that celebrate our students' positive behaviors.

Give Suggestions and Feedback

- Have some ideas for incentives for the kids, fundraising ideas, special activities to celebrate our students? Have feedback on how your child is responding or what they are saying about Viking Vouchers that you think we should hear? Let us know. We want this to be a partnership and getting feedback from our parents and students is really important!

If you want to get involved, please contact Cindy Moser: cmoser@vtzd.com or Amber Porzio: aporzio@vtzd.com.