

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

Here are some of the upcoming events at WCJSHS: high school basketball starts their season at home on Friday, hosting Scott City; the high school wrestlers travel to St. Francis on Saturday; the junior high basketball teams travel to Healy also on Saturday. The following week of December 3rd, is KAY Citizenship Week, JH basketball at home Monday, the WCJSHS music department has their Winter Concert on Tuesday, JH basketball at home Thursday, HS wrestling at the Ulysses tournament Friday and Saturday. High school basketball has the Sagebrush Shootout tournament at Brewster Monday, Friday and Saturday. The WCES Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 13th.

So far in these newsletters I have discussed the core principals of Character Development. This week I'll begin the first of the two parts of Responsible Decision Making and Problem Solving-to develop, implement, and model responsible decision making skills. The first step is to consider multiple factors in decision-making including ethical and safety factors, personal and community responsibilities, and short-term and long-term goals.

To achieve these goals we must: identify and illustrate safe and unsafe situations; state the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors; explain the consequences and rewards of individual and community actions; compare and contrast safe and unsafe situations; identify how responsible decision-making affects personal/social short-term and long-term goals; identify choices made and the consequences of those choices; manage safe and unsafe situations; monitor how responsible decision making affects progress towards achieving a goal; assess lessons learned from experiences and mistakes; implement responsible decision making skills when working towards a goal and assess how these skills lead to goal achievement; utilize skills and habits of applying standards of behavior by asking questions about decisions that students or others make, are about to make, or have made; evaluate situations that are safe and unsafe; and, effectively analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims, and beliefs.

The second step is to organize personal time and manage personal responsibilities effectively. We need to: identify what activities are scheduled for the day and how much time is spent on each; identify and perform steps necessary to accomplish personal responsibilities in scheduled activities; create a daily schedule of school work and activities; identify factors that will inhibit or advance the accomplishment of personal goals; recognize how and when to ask for help; analyze daily schedule of school work and activities for effectiveness and efficiency; recognize how, when, and who to ask for help; monitor factors that will inhibit or advance effective time management; utilize time and materials to complete assignments on schedule; anticipate possible obstacles to completing tasks on schedule; organize and prioritize personal schedule; and, advocate for personal needs in accomplishing goals.

Step number three is to play a developmentally appropriate role in classroom management and school governance. Again, we need to: participate in individual roles and responsibilities in the classroom and in school; recognize the various roles of the personnel that govern the school (all staff); identify and organize what materials are needed to be prepared for class; understand personal relationships with personnel that govern the school; discuss and model appropriate classroom behavior individually and

collectively; construct and model classroom rules and routines; compare and contrast behaviors that do or do not support classroom management; analyze the purpose and impact of classroom and school-wide activities, policies, and routines; and, interpret and evaluate the importance of personal roles and responsibilities in the overall school climate.

Next week I will cover the second step in this process, to develop, implement, and model effective problem solving skills.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Keith Higgins