

What is PBS

PBS stands for "Positive Behavior Supports," a systems approach to school behavior that emphasizes:

- Prevention of problem behaviors through proactive instruction of desired behavior
- Regular reinforcement of appropriate behavior
- Monitoring and correction of problem behavior
- On-going collection and use of data for decision-making
- Application of more intensive and individualized behavior support for students who do not respond to prevention efforts

Walker's B Team

Overseeing Walker's PBS efforts is *The B Team*, a cohort with representation from Walker's classroom teachers, specialist, administration and classified staff. They meet twice a month to work on PBS efforts at Walker. The team is facilitated by Daniel Cazares, one of Walker's CDS, and is part of a district PBS lead team that represents all elementary schools and the middle school in Ashland. The B Team attends regional and state PBS conferences and uses data and surveys to collect information for their action plans.

Walkers Three Rules

Be Safe
Be Responsible
Be Respectful

Walker's Matrix of Expectations

All expected behavior at Walker is clearly defined in positive terms in the school's *Matrix of Expected Behaviors*. You can see the matrix on our school website under *B Team*. The matrix breaks down what safe, responsible and respectful behavior looks like at Walker in all areas of the school including the playground, halls, and cafeteria.

Teaching behavior expectations

At the beginning of the year and when we return from winter and spring break, Walker's faculty teaches specific lessons on the expected positive behaviors at Walker. Students are introduced to the three rules, positive behavior is modeled, and students are given an opportunity to practice positive behaviors in different school areas like the cafeteria and playground.

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior by implementing punishment-based strategies including reprimands, loss of privileges, office referrals, suspensions, and expulsions. Research has shown that the

implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of other positive strategies, is ineffective. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important part of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

Interventions

Interventions are programs, people and activities that Walker invests in to help students stay connected to school and learn about positive behavior choices. There are many interventions at Walker including:

- Child Development Specialists
- Classroom units on positive behavior
- HUGS program
- Art Room at recess
- Student Advocate, Nick Heim
- Organized games at recess
- Pathways
- Assigned recess
- Fall goals and mid year conferences

For a larger list of Walker's interventions look on our website under *B Team* then click on *interventions*.

Responding to behavior

Walker uses a referral system as a way to respond to behavior that is inappropriate. Referred students see a CDS or the principal and are asked to process the referred event so they can make different choices next time. While each situation and student is considered individually, responses to referrals are progressive and aimed at our ultimate goal: making appropriate choices in the future.

Talk...Walk..Squawk

One strategy Walker staff teaches students as a way to respond to others who are being inappropriate is to Talk, Walk and then Squawk.

Talk means to tell the person to stop what they are doing if it is bothering you. Tell them you do not like it.

Walk means to walk away. Remove yourself from the situation. Play or go somewhere else.

Squawk could mean several things: (1) if you feel what just happened is big enough to report or if the person follows you, go tell an adult who is supervising the area. Squawk also means that (2) you might want to go talk to an adult about what to do. Get some advice from someone you trust who may have a different idea about what to do.

How parents and families can help

- Know the three rules of Walker and talk with your children about how they are important in life, at home and at school.
- Familiarize yourself with Walker's expectation matrix posted on our web. Talk to your children about what is expected of them at school and how it may be different than what is expected behavior in other places like the park, home, or a friend's house.
- Teach your child the strategy of *Talk, Walk, and Squawk* at home as a response whenever your child meets inappropriate behavior.
- Accept that any behavior that happens in our lives is an opportunity to learn and grow. Mistakes and struggles do not have to be seen as "bad" or "wrong" -- they are how everyone learns. Childhood is the time to make meaning of life.

More information

A more detailed handout is available from Patty, Walker's principal. As well, information about state and national PBS efforts can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/initiatives/idea/pbs.aspx>

<http://www.pbis.org>



Walker's
Positive Behavior Support
(PBS)

A brochure
for families

