

School-wide Positive Behavior Support

SWPBS

PBS SHARE FAIR 2007-2008

PBS teams gathered on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 to showcase their schools at the 2007-2008 PBS Share Fair. Robin Morrison, PBS District Coordinator, welcomed all school teams, coaches and guests to this annual event hosted at Nova Southeastern University in Kendall.

Guest speakers from Project MPACT, The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, and the University of South Florida's Florida PBS Project, updated schools with information, new resources and

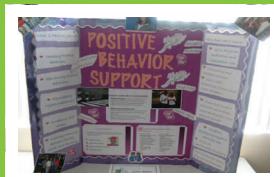
national statistics that will help PBS schools prepare for next year's action plans.

PBS schools are enthusiastic about their vision and work hard to make it happen. Team members shared innovative ideas about specific topics by creating poster board displays, or oral power point presentations.

The afternoon session wrapped up with raffle prizes and other gifts presented to all attending team members. Thumbs up...another fabulous PBS event!



Homestead Middle School



Jan Mann Opportunity School



Carol City Middle School

FACES OF PBS



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Special Thanks

- Mr. Will Gordillo, Assist. Superintendent, Division of SPED, for his words of encouragement and on-going support to all PBS teams and district coaches.
- Dr. Sandra Covington-Smith from National Drop-Out Prevention Center, Clemson University
- Ms. Stephanie Martinez, Florida's PBS Project, University of South Florida
- Mr. Calixto Vallejo, Director of Operations, Project MPACT

PBS : A Positive Solution to the Dropout Crisis



Dr. Sandra Covington-Smith, National Dropout Prevention Center, shared with PBS teams the importance of early identification of problem behaviors which along with academic difficulties have been key risk factors associated with increasing dropout rates. The key predictors of drop out by the end of the 6th grade are poor attendance, poor behavior, failing math and failing English. Dr. Covington-Smith also shared some national statistics regarding dropout rates that are quite a shocker. About 20% of all students dropout of school, including about 40% of the nations lowest socio-economic groups.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is addressing the dropout issues at the elementary, middle and high school levels through positive behavior supports (PBS). PBS Schools are making changes in student attitudes towards school by promoting positive interactions with adults and peers, developing better relationships, and increasing student engagement in the classroom. The use of positive behavioral interventions is the solution to addressing most of the risk factors that are typically linked to dropout. For more information visit The National Dropout Prevention website at: www.ndpc-sd.org

Project MPACT: making a difference

Guest Speaker Calixto Vallejo, Director of Operations for Miami Partnership for Action in Community Task Force (Project MPACT) delivered a colorful presentation that touched the hearts and minds of all of us who want to make a difference for students who need a hand in getting their life straight. Project MPACT began in 2001 as a model program to address juvenile delinquency in our community, providing support and assistance to youth who may be in need of a positive change

in their lives. Project MPACT along with MDCPS and other community resources provide opportunities for job training, life skills, substance abuse treatment, counseling, mentoring tutoring and parenting skills. If you know of any student who may benefit from these services visit their website: mpact.dadeschools.net. Your referral will make a difference in someone's life...give someone a second chance!!!

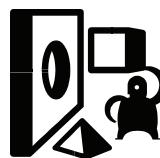


PBS DATA: A Practical Tool for Problem Solving



STEPHANIE MARTINEZ FROM FLORIDA'S POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PROJECT SHARED FOUR SIMPLE PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGIES THAT CAN BE USED WHEN APPLYING PBS DATA TO MAKE DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENT RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) STRATEGIES. BY USING DATA THROUGH A PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS, TEAM MEMBERS WERE TAUGHT TO:

1. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND DEVELOP THE HYPOTHESIS,
2. DEVELOP THE PLAN,
3. MONITOR THE PROGRESS, AND
4. EVALUATE THE SUCCESS.



TEAM MEMBERS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE THE FOUR STEP PROCESS ON TWO CASE STUDY EXAMPLES, ONE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ONE FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL. THIS PRACTICAL TOOL CAN BE USED BY THE SCHOOLS DURING THEIR PBS TEAM MEETINGS, RTI MEETINGS OR SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM (SST) MEETINGS.

Howard A. Doolin Middle: A "Star" is Born.

By Alina Cutié-Rodriguez, BMT

Howard A. Doolin Middle would like to congratulate the **PBS Shining Star for the 2007-2008** school year...

Lauren Gonzalez

Lauren is an eighth grade student who participates in many of our extra curricular activities, such as Drama, and Track and Field and still manages to make Honors throughout the year. She is always

striving to do her best and achieve her true potential. Lauren is our "SHINING STAR" and a great example of how Positive Behavior Support can make a difference.

Lauren will be receiving the PBS award for the year and she will be acknowledged at our End of the Year Award Assembly on May 22, 2008.

Once again, congratulations!!



PBS SHINING STAR AWARD 2007-2008



WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Pledge



Today is a new day,
A new beginning to prove what great things I can do,
I pledge to give my best, my all, to tasks that are required of me.
Oh let me be that light that shines for all to see,
All the good that is within me,
I will be great today,
Because everyday is a new day to make an "A" at the view,
"Believe it, I will achieve it!"



Parent Connection

Maintaining good parent-teacher relationships requires good communication, collaboration, and personal sensitivity. The way school staff interacts with students and their families can make a lasting impression that will impact parental involvement and influence the way students feel about school. Cecilia Nieto, Community Liaison Specialist from FDLRS-South has offered some simple suggestions that will help teachers establish good communication habits and maintain positive connections with parents.

- Make parents feel needed
- Maintain positive communication with parents
- Provide flexible options to meet with parents
- Remember, technology can never replace a friendly smile
- Respect parent's point of view, cultural values and boundaries
- Make kind comments that show you care about their child
- Collaborate with parents on rules, homework, and assignments
- Be prepared to move on, and do not hold grudges
- Be open to changes, don't stick with the "old cheese"
- And always remember to expect the unexpected!!



For additional information regarding School-Wide Positive Behavior Support, please contact **Ms. Robin J. Morrison**, SWPBS District Coordinator & Instructional Supervisor, Division of Special Education
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PBS Coaches...

Our coaches are highly qualified professionals who dedicate their time to support school leadership teams throughout the year. They meet within the district for monthly Coaches' Meetings, and collaborate with other regional coaches or facilitators in Florida. Coaches are liaisons between the PBS District Coordinator and the school-based PBS Teams. They report about PBS accomplishments as well as challenges throughout the year. They support their team by assisting in the implementation process, help out with school team tasks, and provide teams with additional resources like websites, forms or information, to enhance implementation efforts. Because of their familiarity with general discipline, classroom behavior and instructional management, they are expert advisors that can assist teams with their products, activities, and action plans when needed. Our coaches are problem solvers with great communication skills and a history of accurate and effective work ethics.

Hats off...to all of our coaches and thank you for another great year!!!



Words of Wisdom ... Keeping PBS Schools Motivated

One of the biggest challenges for PBS schools is motivating staff to continue with the time and energy required to implement PBS throughout the school year. Perhaps we need to focus more on the *outcome* instead of the *process*.

PBS methods are research-based and proven to reduce problem behaviors in schools. But it doesn't happen overnight. Ultimately, PBS schools develop a more positive school climate and increase their overall academic performance. As we have always heard "good things don't come easy", and *improving academic performance* is definitely a good thing!!

- **Always...focus on the POSITIVE**
- **Share data with staff, provide feedback**
- **Highlight successes & accomplishments in faculty meetings**
- **Celebrate with "Thank You" notes**
- **Remind students and staff of PBS Activities**
- **Be consistent with reward & recognition system**
- **Blend in PBS program with School-Wide Discipline Policies already in place**
- **Find community resources to donate "stuff"**
- **Be flexible, plan for time constraints**
- **Communicate PBS vision with parents**
- **Invite parents to PBS activities**
- **Provide parents with PBS strategies they can use at home**

