

Creating a Platinum Climate with ASB

Presenters: Mary Carey, AP and Laura Castro, ASB Advisor

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School



Key Messages

- Student achievement and behavior are impacted by school climate
- School climate *can* be influenced and improved

Who *we* are...

- **Mendez Fundamental**
 - Grades 6-8
 - Current enrollment 1424
- Demographics:
 - 98.4% Hispanic/Latino
 - 88.3% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
 - 35.5% English Learners & RFEP
 - 12.5% Homeless & Foster Youth
 - 7% Students with Disabilities



What is School Climate?

- School climate is the social atmosphere or learning environment in which kids experience learning. Including:
 - Relationships (peer and adult)
 - Personal growth or goal orientation
 - System maintenance and system change

Some differences between *culture* and *climate*

- CULTURE is...

The groups' personality

Provides a limited way of thinking

Takes years to evolve

Based on values & beliefs

Part of us

“The way we do things around here”

- CLIMATE is...

- The groups' attitude

- Creates a state of mind

- Easy to change (takes work!)

- Based on perceptions

- Surrounds us

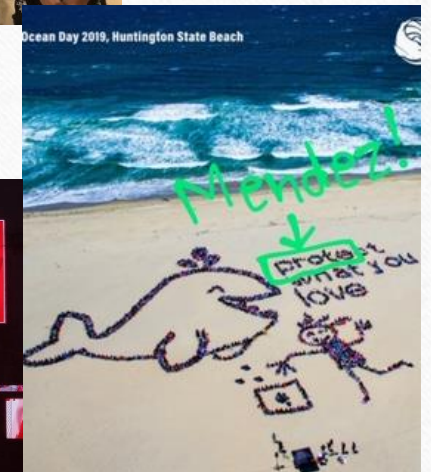
- “The way we feel around here”

Dimensions of School Climate

- Physical dimension: appearance, size of school and student/teacher ratio, safety, resources available
- Social dimension: quality of relationships, equity/fair treatment for all staff and students, shared decision making
- Academic dimension: quality of instruction, TE=SA, ongoing monitoring of student progress, reporting results to parents & students

Essentials for an Effective School Climate

- Supportive and stimulating environment
- Student-Centered (tune into students)
- Positive Expectations
- Showcase academic achievement
- Set and track achievement goals
- Support school activities
- Connect with parents and community
- School improvement is a process, not an event





In a nutshell...

- SCHOOL CLIMATE IS THE OVERALL *FEELING* OF THE SCHOOL!

When the climate is right, people are inspired to do their best.

Achievement generally rises, individuals succeed and so does the school.

When a school has a “winning climate” people feel proud, connected and committed.

How can *we* work to improve school climate?

- Increase parent, family, community involvement
- Implement/support character education or schoolwide values
- Provide conflict resolution, peer mediation and violence prevention
- Understand, identify and support mental health issues
- Ensure all students and staff are treated fairly and equitably
- Take clear measures to ensure schoolwide safety
- Personalize the school experience
- Develop Schoolwide guidelines, expectations and incentives

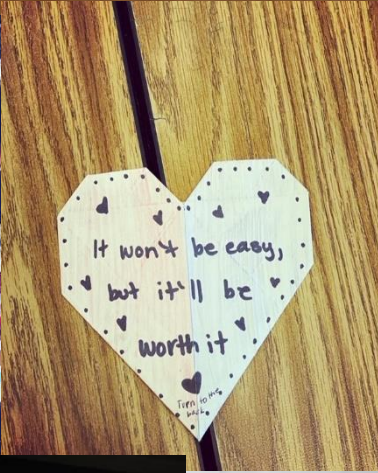
Schoolwide we...

- Sign a compact yearly - All stakeholders
- Uphold schoolwide progressive discipline & hold each other accountable
- Regularly hold assemblies reviewing expectations and celebrating
- Use agendas, conduct weekly binder checks
- Track student progress (MAP, SBAC, weekly grades, goals, etc.)
- All teachers post CW/HW daily with an EQ

Schoolwide ASB

- Welcome Back Assembly
- Spirit weeks (2 per semester)
- Club Rush annually
- Lunchtime activities
- Renaissance Assemblies – honoring academics
- Dances, Talent Show, Carnival
- Field Day (competing against teachers!)





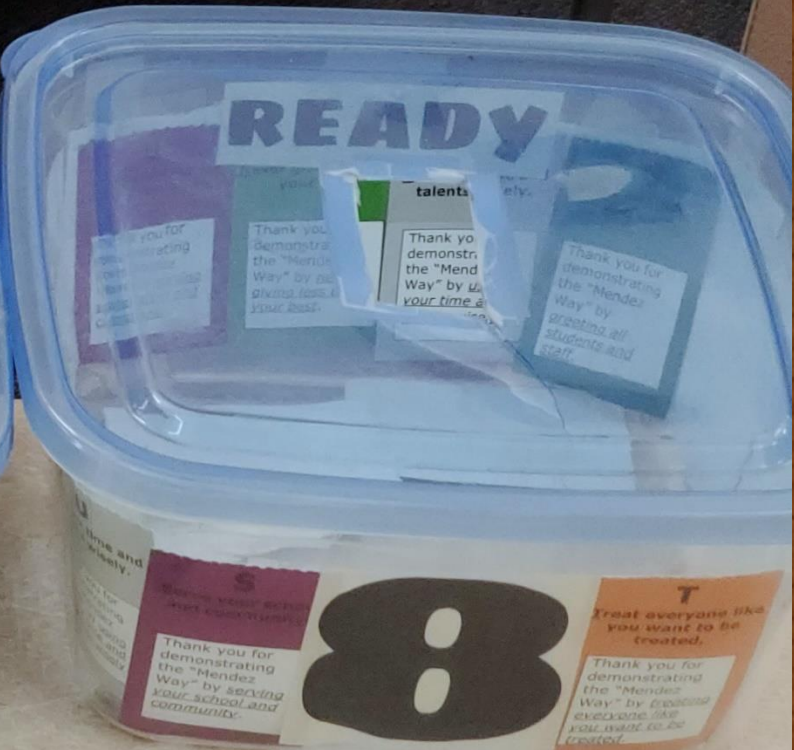
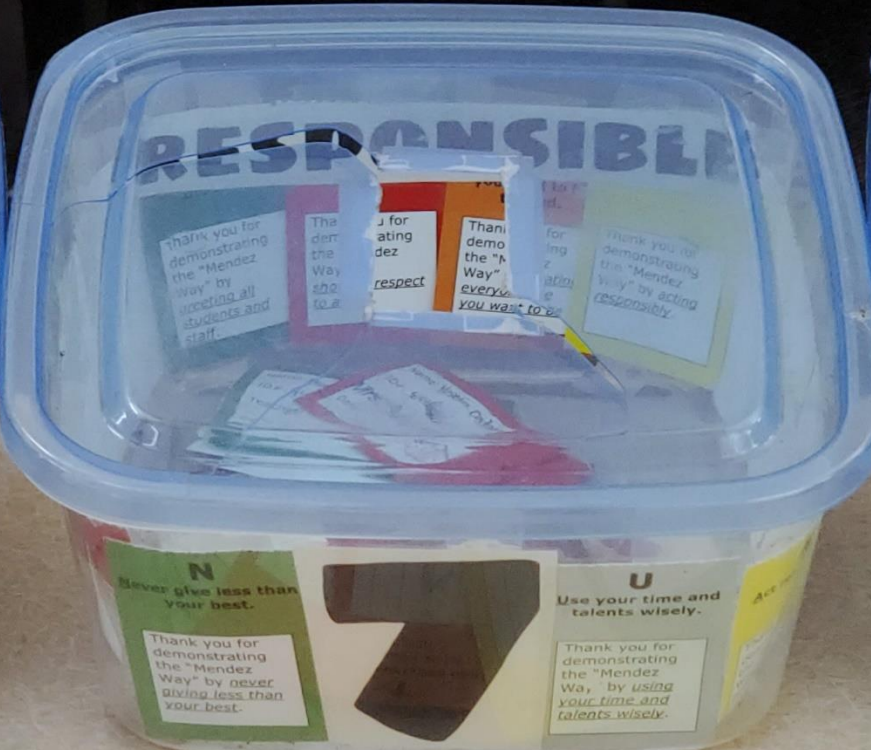
Integration of PBIS

- Formed a team (teachers, classified, counselors, parents, students) meet weekly
- Created a motto (3R's Respectful, Responsible, Ready) publicize it daily; on agenda, marquee, GMM, posters
- Explicitly teach the expectation
- Provide an incentive base (tickets – prizes – awards)
- SHINE the spotlight of what we're doing RIGHT!

Good Morning Mendez GMM

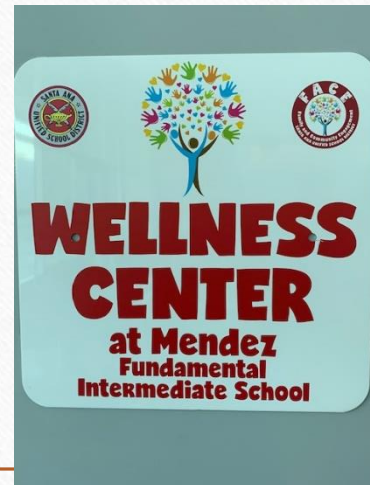
- Every morning we begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and Scholar's Pledge:
“We the students of the SAUSD pledge to be dedicated to scholarship. We will strive to succeed and build an honorable future. We will make our city proud by being respectful and responsible. We shall not only ensure success for ourselves, but we will also encourage success in others.”

We follow up with our site, student broadcast of GMM!



Wellness Center with FACE liaison

- Addition of a FACE (Family and Community Engagement) liaison
- On going parenting classes on campus
- Community resources (medical, dental, legal, etc.)

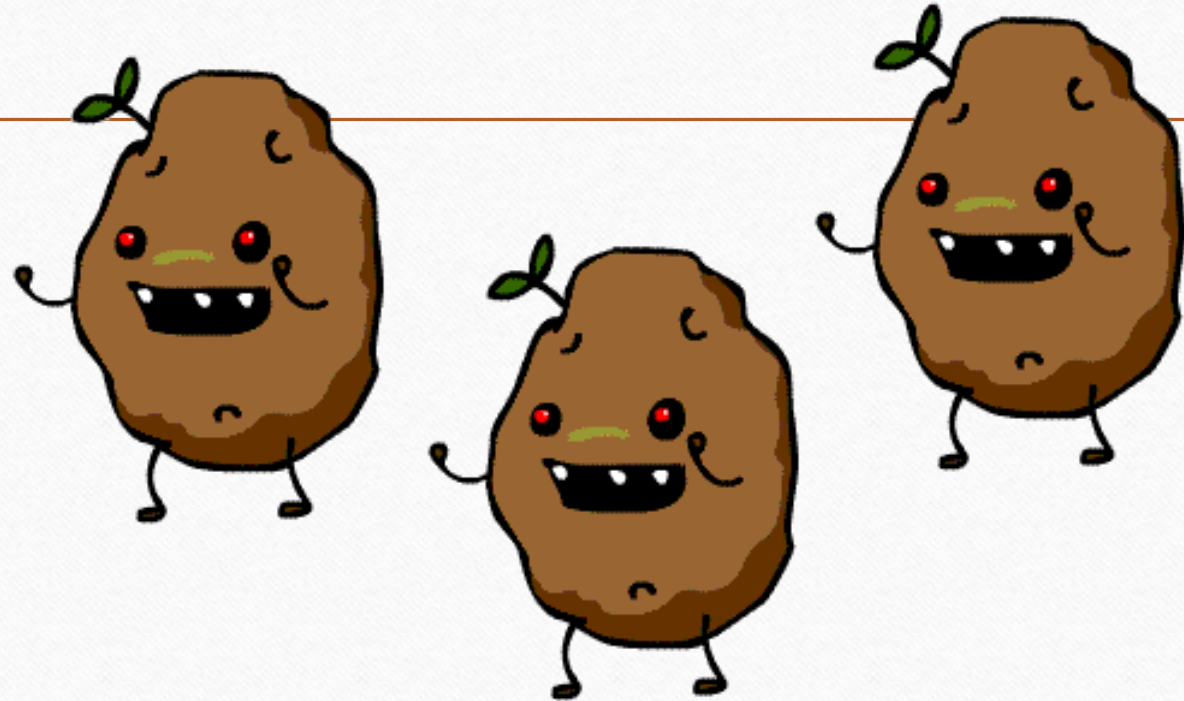


The fruits of our labor...



A TOXIC school Culture is full of “taters”

- Dictators
- Commentators
- Agitators
- Spectators



DON'T BE A TATER – Stay away from them!

3 Takeaways...

- 3 things I can control and begin to improve/build climate
- 3 people I can connect with on the site to support the idea
- 3 “a-ha” moments





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- mary.carey@sausd.us
 - laura.castro@sausd.us

GOOD TEACHERS
♥ TEACH
GREAT TEACHERS
INSPIRE