

CONNECTIONS DAY SCHOOL

POINT SYSTEM

PERSONAL GOALS & THE CIRCLE OF COURAGE

At Connections Day School we use a point system which is designed to identify, label and motivate positive behaviors in our students, by clearly acknowledging and celebrating these positive behaviors. Students begin each day with zero points and are then acknowledged for their positive efforts and behavior, every 20 minutes, throughout the school day. Students may earn up to 200 points a day. Students may also earn bonus points throughout the day for displaying positive behaviors which exceed standard expectations.

No points are ever taken away and there are no negative points. Problem dominated behavior will receive immediate feedback, and may result in no points being earned in certain areas and/or consequences; but points will never be taken away. If feedback is necessary, and a student is asked to address their point sheet, the student will mark his/her own point sheet to acknowledge their understanding and acceptance of the feedback. If the student can correct his/her behavior, within a 20-minute period, s/he is able to earn points back for overcoming that challenge.

In addition to students starting with zero points each day, all students begin on the same performance and privilege level system within the CDS program. This motivational system is based on a merit, and there are three levels (yellow, green and blue), with the higher levels yielding increases in privileges. This level system illustrates for students that in order to get things they want (privileges) they need to earn them by exhibiting positive behavior and making smart choices on a consistent basis, creating a direct connection between effort and reward.

Every morning, during homeroom time, each student is required to work with the teacher in identifying two personal (Target Goals, based on their IEP) on which they need to focus throughout the day. These two goals are listed as Goal #1 and Goal #2. The other areas on the point sheet relate to the four quadrants of The Circle of Courage (see examples below). The student is also required to determine (along with their teacher) what percentage of points they aim to earn that day. The student may save the points in their bankbook in order to purchase a pre-determined personal Target Privilege, a classroom Target Privilege or to purchase items from the CDS School Store.

POINTS CAN BE EARNED

IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS THROUGHOUT EACH DAY

PERSONAL GOAL #1 and **GOAL #2**: both IEP related Target Goals

*** AND ***

THE FOUR QUADRANTS OF THE CIRCLE OF COURAGE (see examples below):

BELONGING

Using respectful language
Behaving in a way that benefits the group
Respecting other's work, time & space
Respecting property
Remaining in the classroom
Feeling that you have a place & purpose
Being comfortable enough to share ideas & feelings
Good attendance

MASTERY

Completing assignments
Finishing work on time
Applying yourself
Accomplishing your goals
Managing feelings & behavior appropriately
Cooperating with others
Practicing and not giving up
Managing challenging situation appropriately

GENEROSITY

Being kind
Complimenting others
Asking others to join in
Being nurturing
Teaching others what you know
Learning new skills and ideas
Being polite
Helping a classmate or Staff Member

INDEPENDENCE

Using class time productively
Being prepared for class & work
Resisting negative influences & peer pressure
Being in charge of yourself
Using your own thoughts constructively
Wanting (not needing) to spend time with others
Demonstrating confidence and self-knowledge
Making independent and wise decisions