

D97 Middle School Redesign: Behavior Expectations Update

Oct. 8, 2024

Board of Education Meeting



What's the big idea?





Tonight's Presenters

OCTOBER 2024

Dr. Luis Fernando De León
Assistant Superintendent of
Middle Schools

April Capuder
Principal of Brooks Middle School

Michele Capio
Director of Universal Design for Learning

Sergio Torres
Julian Student Success Coach

Yael Berenson-White
Brooks MTSS Math Interventionist

Agenda

Topics Covered

Equity Policy Alignment

D97 Middle School-Wide
Expectations Update

Pass the Mic - Students

Equity Policy Alignment and SY25 Priority Overview



2024-25 District 97 Transformation Goals

G. Welcoming School Environments

District 97 shall ensure that each school creates a welcoming culture and inclusive environment that reflects and supports the diversity of each school and District 97's student population, their families, our teachers and staff, and our community.



The culture and climate will be intentionally designed and implemented to value all members of our school communities and require respectful interactions between our students and each other, as well as between and among teachers, staff members and community members before, during, and after school so that every student, family and staff member feels a sense of belonging in each classroom and building. Our staff shall also be supported and provided the resources and training necessary to foster a culture of belonging in our schools.



2024-25 District 97 Transformation Goals

We Learn, Lead and Celebrate Together

Our District Culture
ALL Employee Professional Learning

We Design for ALL

Elementary Core Instruction Foundations
Middle School Redesign

We Align Resources

Master Facilities Plan
Comprehensive Safety Plan

We Learn Everywhere

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate
Early Childhood Education



D97 Middle School-Wide Behavior Expectations

OVERVIEW



Systems

How positive behavior practices are implemented



Practices

How educators promote positive behaviors in school

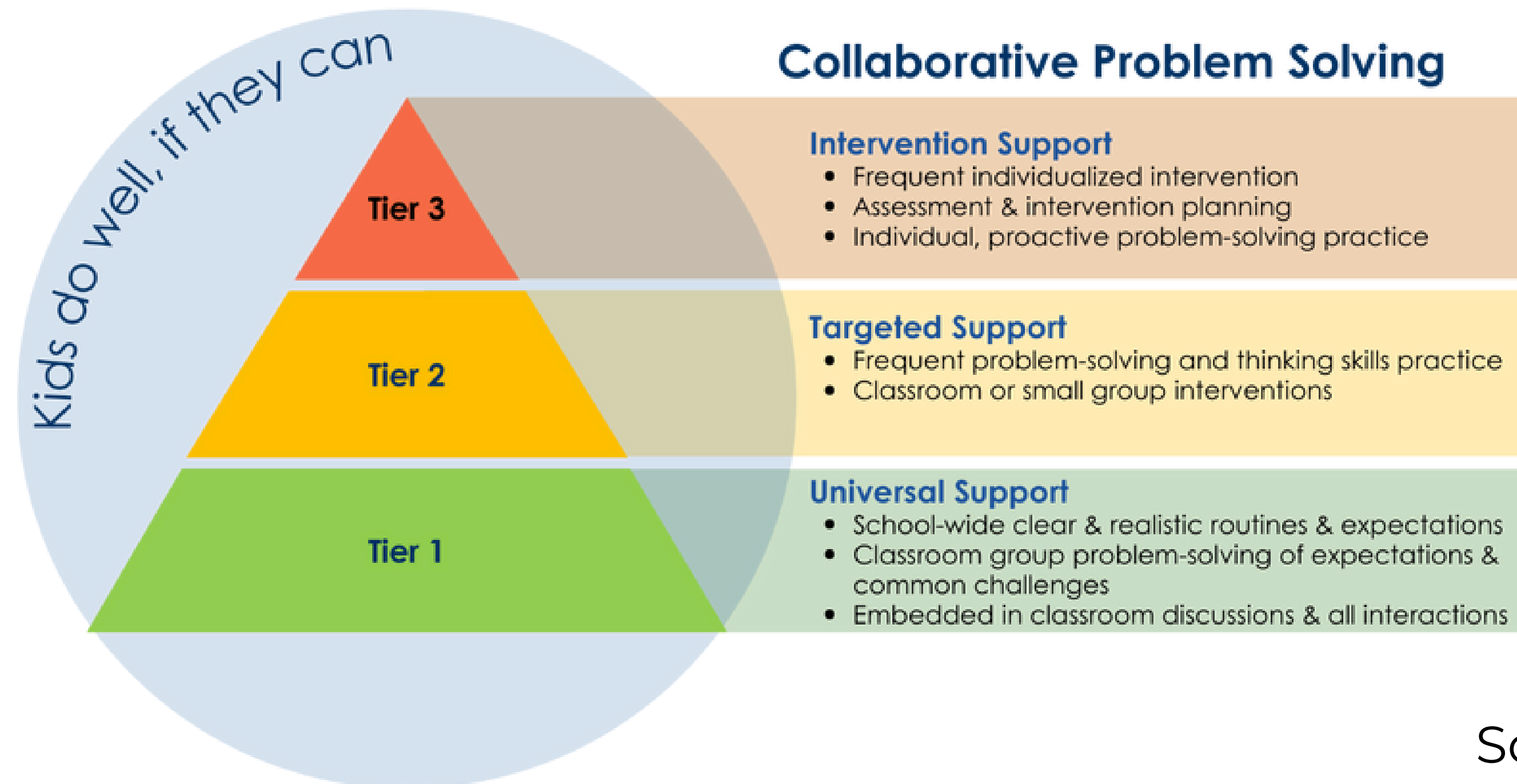


Progress Monitoring

To improve academic, social-emotional learning and behavior outcomes for students

SYSTEMS

MTSS and PBIS

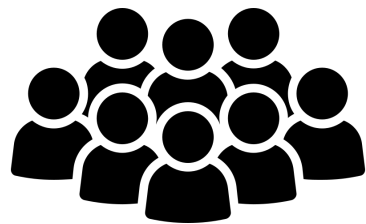


Source: Think:Kids

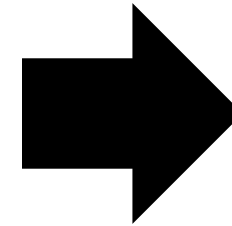
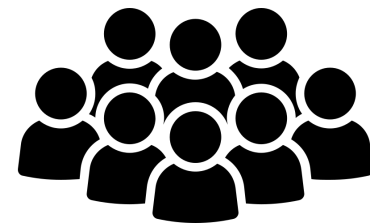
SYSTEMS

START STATE

**Grade Level
Team Leads/
MTSS Academic**



**MTSS
Team
Behavior**



CURRENT STATE

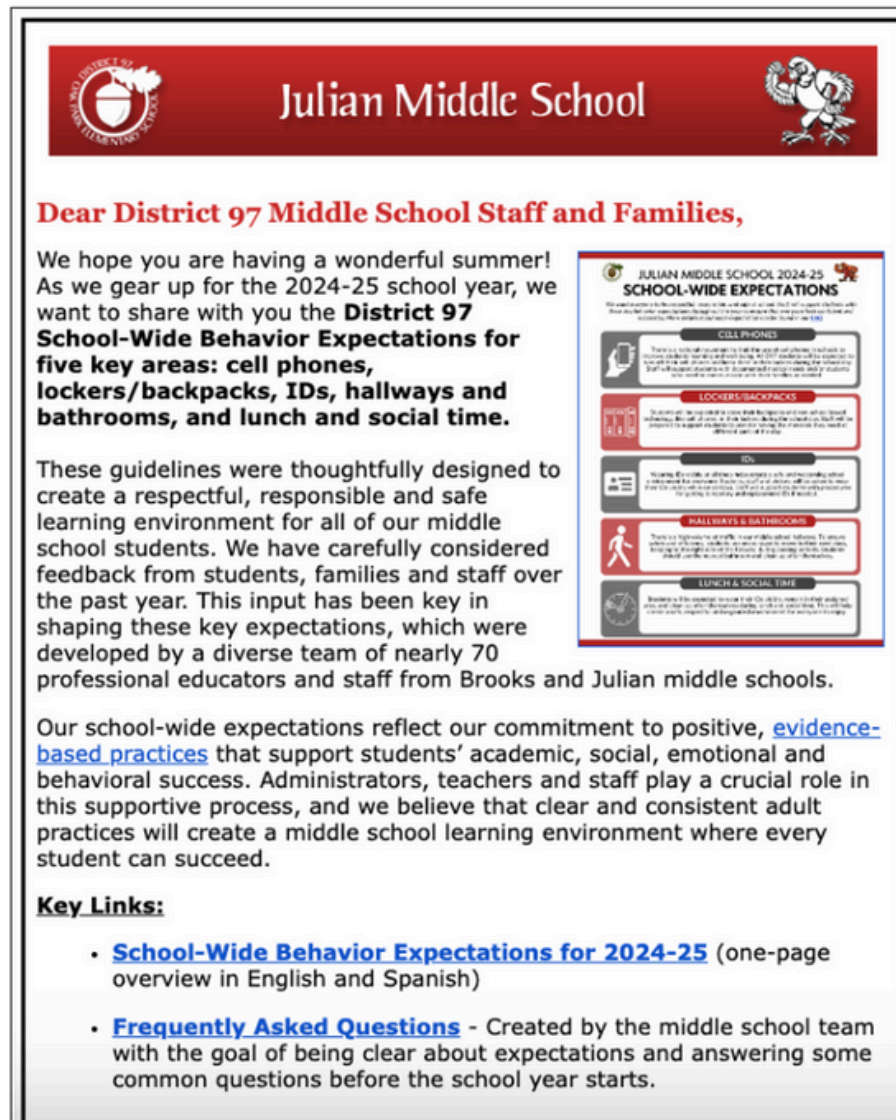
**INTEGRATED TEAMS:
MTSS Grade Level
Leadership Teams**



Team Leaders
Student Success Coach
Social Worker or Psychologist
Special Education Teacher
Elective Teacher
MTSS MS Leader
Assistant Superintendent
UDL Directors
Principal
Assistant Principals

PRACTICES

Creating Consistency and Shared Understanding



Julian Middle School

Dear District 97 Middle School Staff and Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! As we gear up for the 2024-25 school year, we want to share with you the **District 97 School-Wide Behavior Expectations for five key areas: cell phones, lockers/backpacks, IDs, hallways and bathrooms, and lunch and social time.**

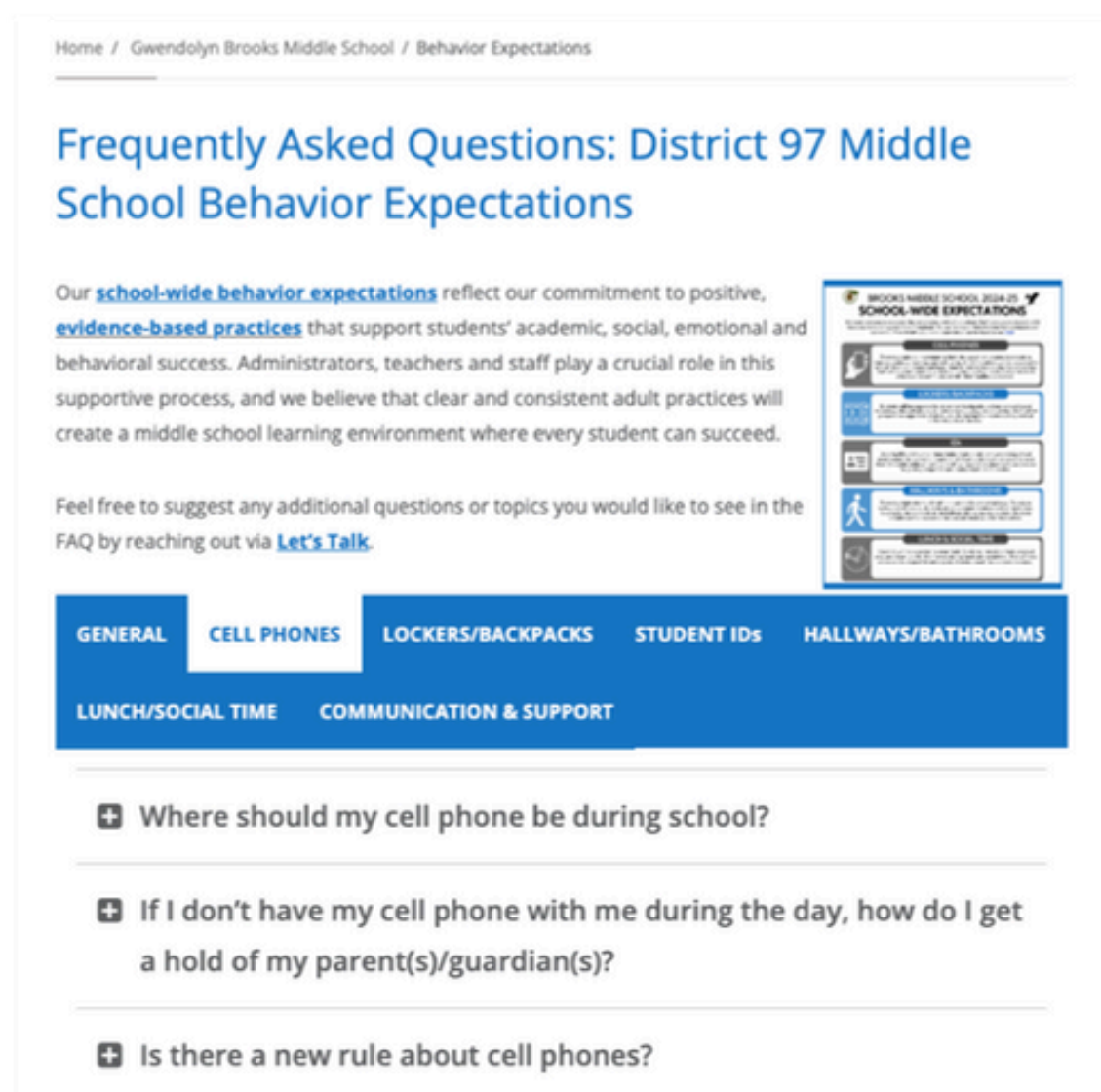
These guidelines were thoughtfully designed to create a respectful, responsible and safe learning environment for all of our middle school students. We have carefully considered feedback from students, families and staff over the past year. This input has been key in shaping these key expectations, which were developed by a diverse team of nearly 70 professional educators and staff from Brooks and Julian middle schools.

Our school-wide expectations reflect our commitment to positive, [evidence-based practices](#) that support students' academic, social, emotional and behavioral success. Administrators, teachers and staff play a crucial role in this supportive process, and we believe that clear and consistent adult practices will create a middle school learning environment where every student can succeed.

Key Links:

- [School-Wide Behavior Expectations for 2024-25](#) (one-page overview in English and Spanish)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) - Created by the middle school team with the goal of being clear about expectations and answering some common questions before the school year starts.

Clear, Timely
Communication



Home / Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School / Behavior Expectations

Frequently Asked Questions: District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations

Our [school-wide behavior expectations](#) reflect our commitment to positive, [evidence-based practices](#) that support students' academic, social, emotional and behavioral success. Administrators, teachers and staff play a crucial role in this supportive process, and we believe that clear and consistent adult practices will create a middle school learning environment where every student can succeed.

Feel free to suggest any additional questions or topics you would like to see in the FAQ by reaching out via [Let's Talk](#).

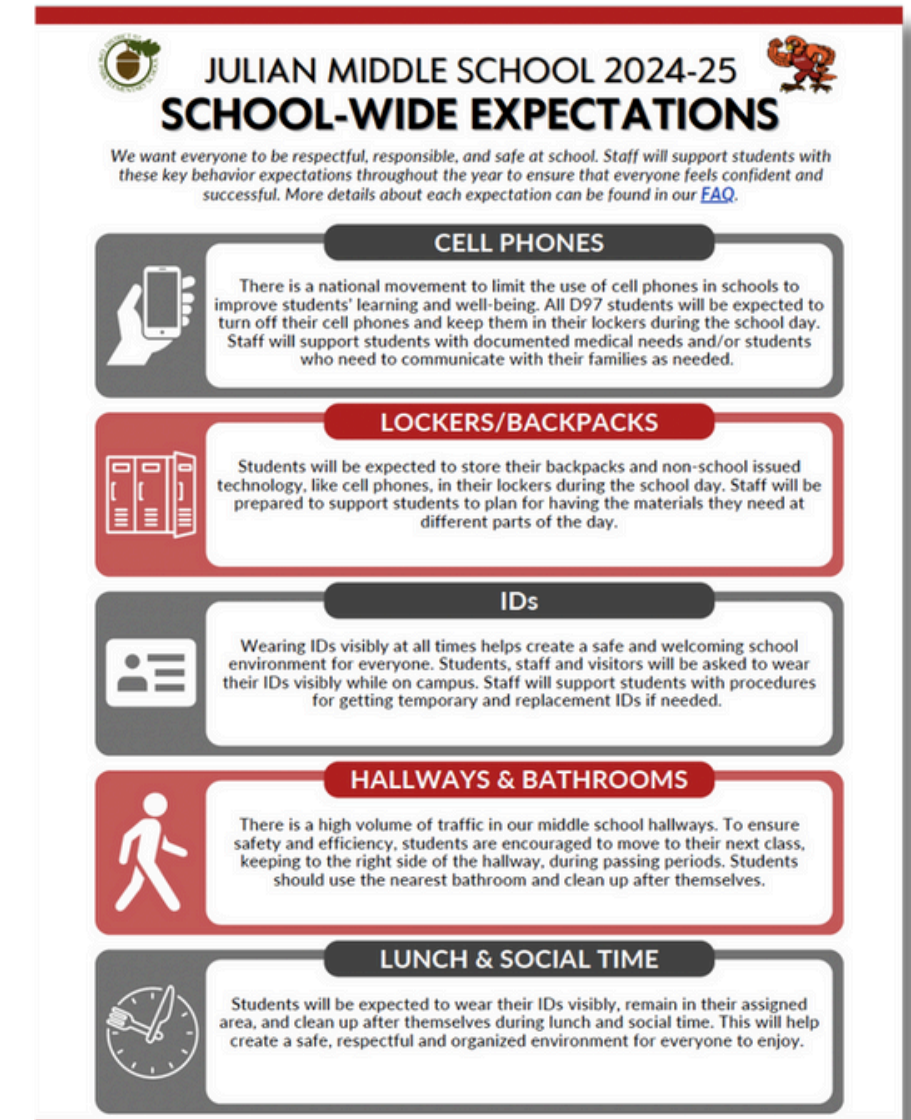
- GENERAL
- CELL PHONES
- LOCKERS/BACKPACKS
- STUDENT IDs
- HALLWAYS/BATHROOMS
- LUNCH/SOCIAL TIME
- COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

+ Where should my cell phone be during school?

+ If I don't have my cell phone with me during the day, how do I get a hold of my parent(s)/guardian(s)?

+ Is there a new rule about cell phones?

Establishing Common
Language



JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL 2024-25 SCHOOL-WIDE EXPECTATIONS

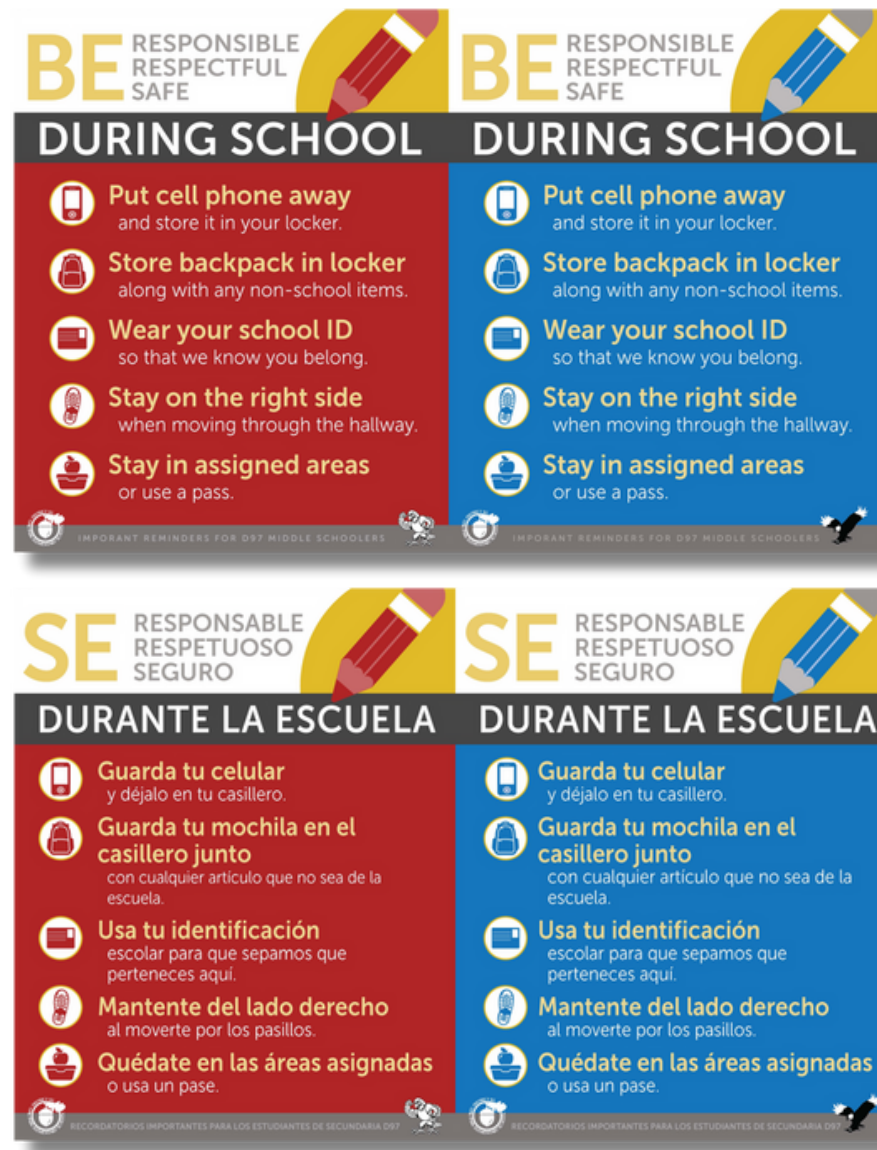
We want everyone to be respectful, responsible, and safe at school. Staff will support students with these key behavior expectations throughout the year to ensure that everyone feels confident and successful. More details about each expectation can be found in our [FAQ](#).

- CELL PHONES**
There is a national movement to limit the use of cell phones in schools to improve students' learning and well-being. All D97 students will be expected to turn off their cell phones and keep them in their lockers during the school day. Staff will support students with documented medical needs and/or students who need to communicate with their families as needed.
- LOCKERS/BACKPACKS**
Students will be expected to store their backpacks and non-school issued technology, like cell phones, in their lockers during the school day. Staff will be prepared to support students to plan for having the materials they need at different parts of the day.
- IDs**
Wearing IDs visibly at all times helps create a safe and welcoming school environment for everyone. Students, staff and visitors will be asked to wear their IDs visibly while on campus. Staff will support students with procedures for getting temporary and replacement IDs if needed.
- HALLWAYS & BATHROOMS**
There is a high volume of traffic in our middle school hallways. To ensure safety and efficiency, students are encouraged to move to their next class, keeping to the right side of the hallway, during passing periods. Students should use the nearest bathroom and clean up after themselves.
- LUNCH & SOCIAL TIME**
Students will be expected to wear their IDs visibly, remain in their assigned area, and clean up after themselves during lunch and social time. This will help create a safe, respectful and organized environment for everyone to enjoy.

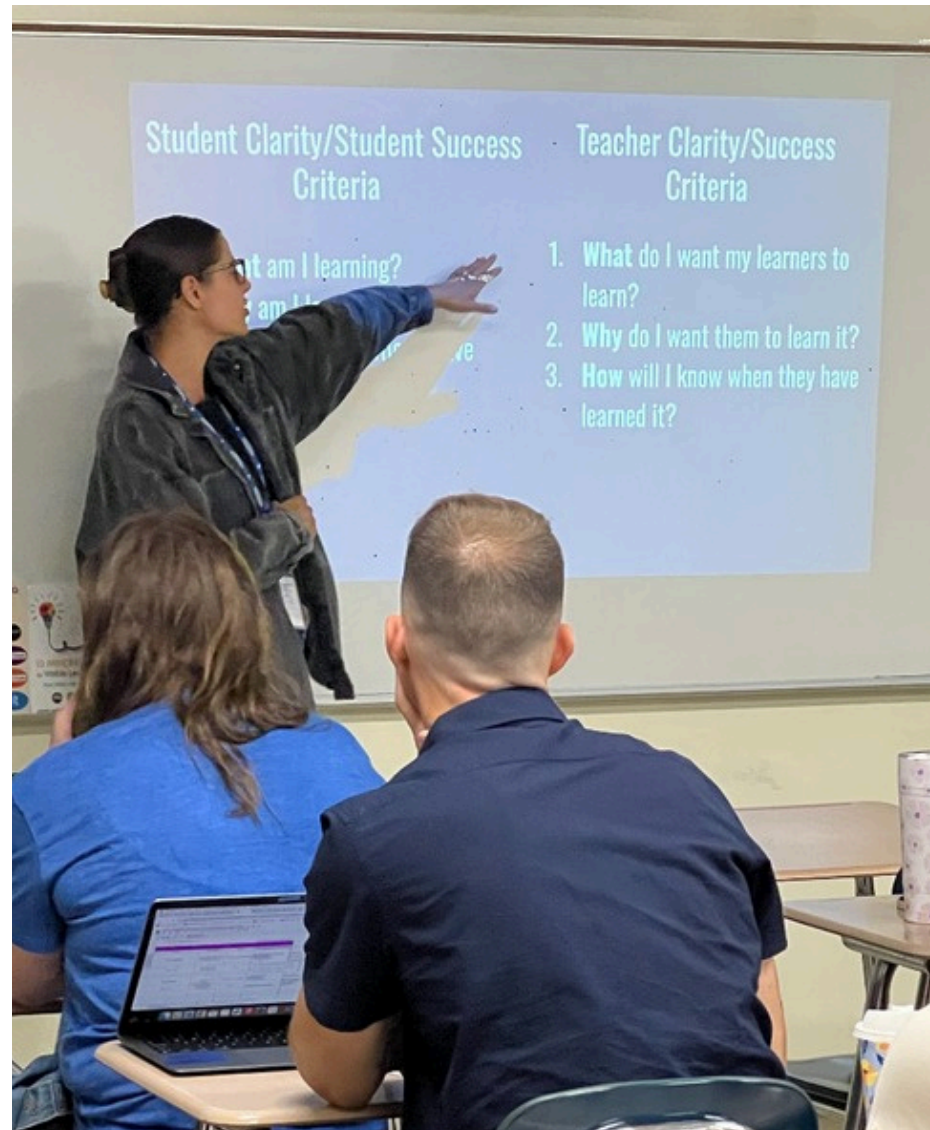
Aligning School-Wide
Expectations

PRACTICES

Strengthening and Refining Our Systems



Designing a Supportive Environment



Building on Best Practices in Teaching



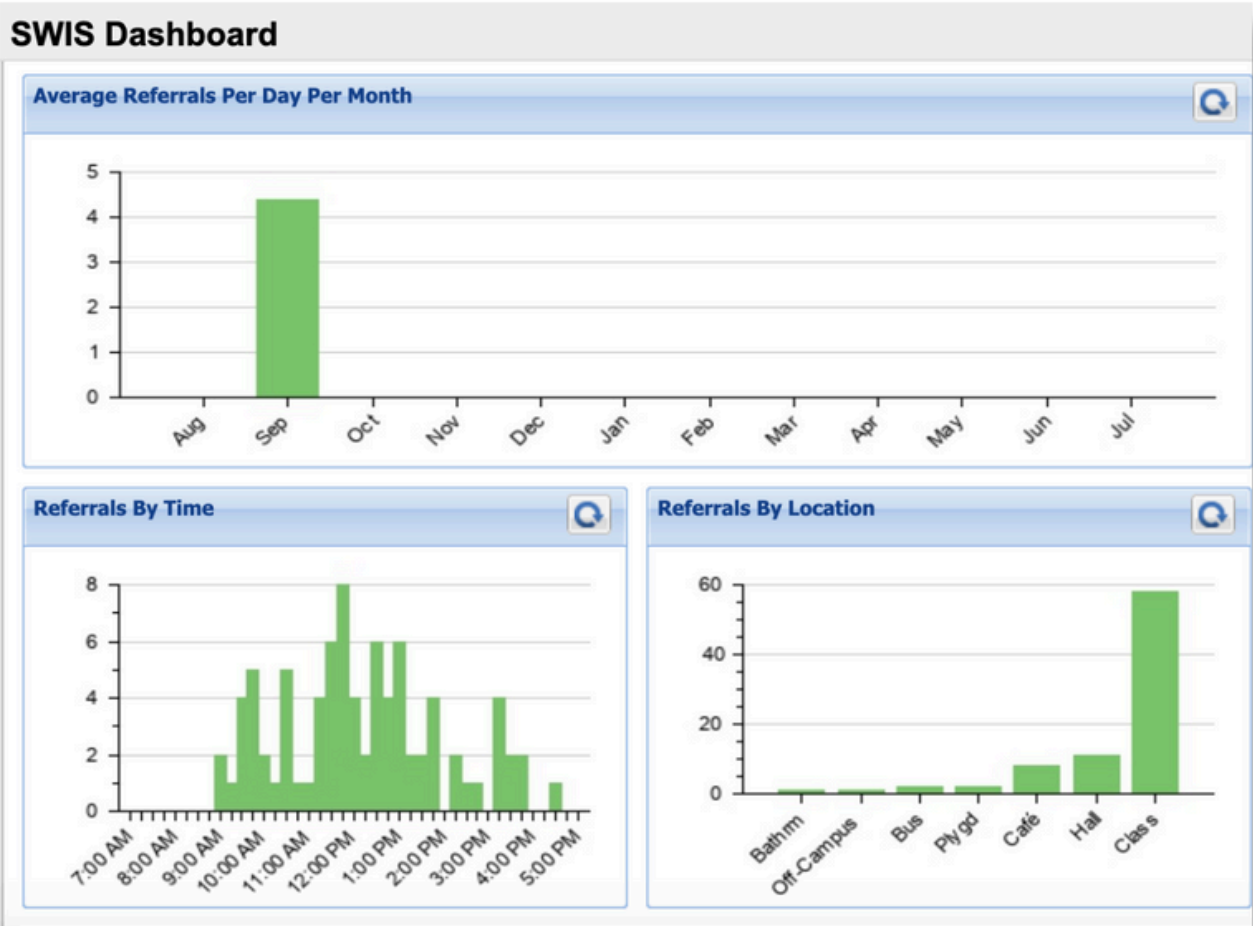
Supporting our Families

PRACTICES

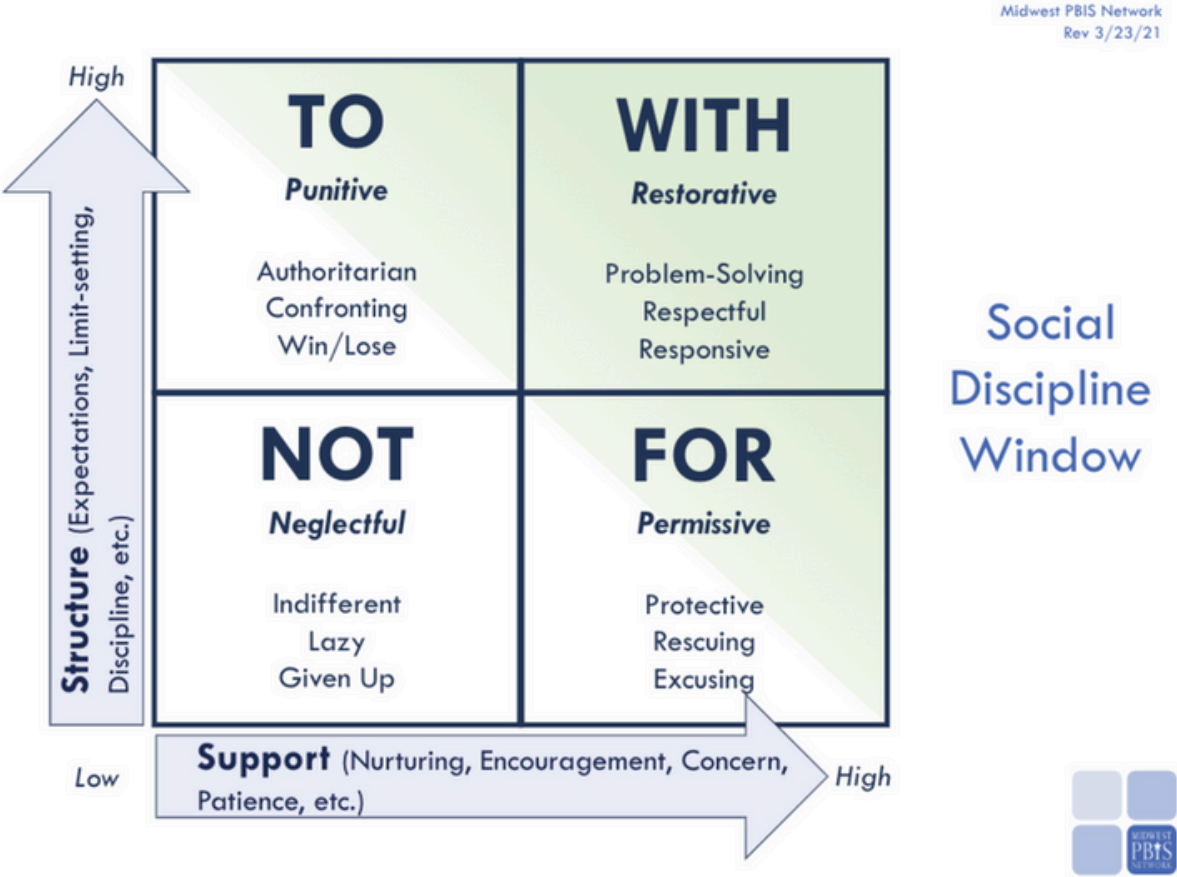
- What about when a student has a unique need and is not able to meet the expectation?
- What early adjustments have we needed to make? How have we made them? How has it gone?
- What are we learning about how to ensure a supportive versus a punitive approach?

TRACKING GROWTH, IMPACT & SUCCESS

Creating Consistency Across Schools



Progress Monitoring and Reflection



Teaching Framework for Success



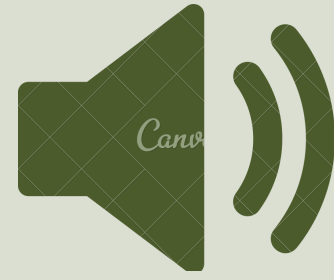
Celebrating Milestones

PROGRESS MONITORING

February 2025 Board of Education Middle School Update:

- What does our behavioral data show from August 2024 to December 2024? What does it tell us and what are we doing about it?
- What are the research-based best practices for collecting, monitoring and responding to behavioral data? How are we moving toward that practice in Oak Park D97?
- Given our equity policy, how are discipline disproportionality and stakeholder engagement reflected in how we are transforming our middle schools in this area of work?

PASS THE MIC



How do you and your friends remind each other to stay on track with school expectations?

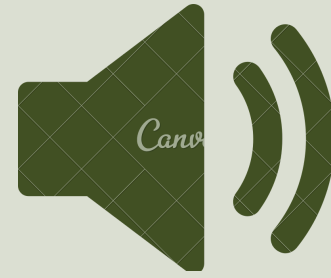
“In the morning my friend group always asks each other if you have our IDs if we don't see them on each other, and then, like, if somebody can't open their lock. Like, just the other day, there was, like, one minute left until the bell rang, and I had to help my friend. And then, like, I feel like, with the locks, it's kind of hard for some people, so I feel like that's another challenge.”



Phoebe, 7th Grader, Brooks Middle School



PASS THE MIC



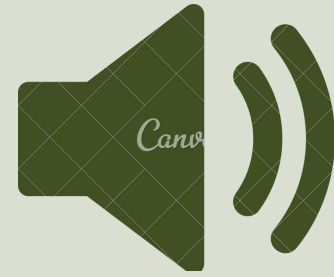
What difference has it made for your learning to not have your cell phone during class?

"I feel like it's easier to not get distracted when I'm focused on a task, because I get, like, distracted by stuff really easily. So I feel like, without all the buzzing and notifications, it's a lot easier to just focus on the one task that I'm trying to do."



James, 8th Grade, Brooks Middle School

PASS THE MIC



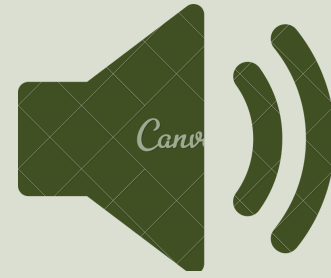
Do you think it's easier to focus this year with cell phones in lockers?

"I think sometimes the rules can, like, influence people to, like, break them. Like, sometimes that happens if it's like, not enforced enough. I don't think that teachers should be checking students as they get to class. Like, do you have your phone on you? Like, check their pockets. But yeah, it's distracting. And it can be like, Oh, I don't want to focus right now. I'm just gonna think about, oh, I want to play this game on my phone. Oh, I'm gonna, I don't know, do all this stuff when I get home, I'm gonna have a great time on my phone and they're not really focusing on what the teacher is saying."



Carsten, 7th Grade, Brooks Middle School

PASS THE MIC



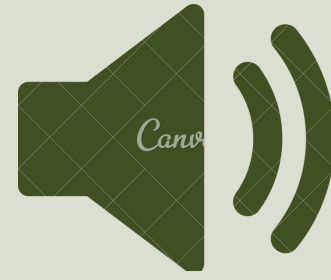
Since the behavior expectations started, what differences have you noticed?

"I kind of liked the rules last year because, it was like, they were like strict, but they were, like, flexible in a way. And like, I like the rules last year better than this year, even though, like, I get where, like, everybody's coming from with the rules, but I feel like it's just overdoing it a whole lot. So like since the beginning of this year, I'm like trying to like go to my locker early, like stuff like that, and just get on top of my classes and all of the rules. It can be hard sometimes."



Leannie, 8th Grade, Brooks Middle School

PASS THE MIC



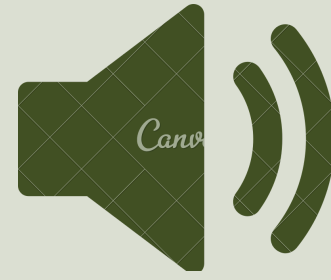
What advice do you have for incoming sixth-graders regarding the behavior expectations?

“Surround yourself with people that have the same goals that you have. Because if you do not surround yourself with people that have the same goals, like, if you're trying to you know, you want to be a straight A student, I would say, do sports, try and keep yourself busy with a sport all the time...”



Maya, 8th Grader, Julian Middle School

PASS THE MIC



What advice do you have for incoming sixth-graders regarding the behavior expectations?

But some people, like, they like, can't do sports. Yeah, do some extracurricular activity. It doesn't have to be a sport, right? Because, like, you can find happiness in anything that you put your mind to. So, like, if you're just, whether it's even going to Calculation Corner once a week to better yourself, or something so your passing this test or passing this class, to better yourself. So you know it's your best, like, just to better yourself.



Mia, 8th Grader, Julian Middle School

Do you have questions about the middle school behavior expectations?

LET'S TALK!



We invite the community to
celebrate our middle schools
year-round using Let's Talk!



www.op97.org/letstalk

