

Practice #17

Teachers and students celebrate the successes of others.

“So, to praise others for their virtues can but encourage one’s own efforts.

Nagarjuna, Indian philosopher (ca 150-250 CE)

“Celebrate what you want to see more of.”

--Thomas J. Peters (1942-) American Writer on Business Management Practices

“When someone does something good, applaud.

You will make two people happy.”

- Samuel Goldwyn

Purpose:

- Students who congratulate one another on successes help create a supportive environment and camaraderie in all areas where they work together to achieve goals. *The Essential 55*, Ron Clark
- Recognitions are opportunities to say to everyone. “I’d like to remind you one more time what’s important around here. Here’s what we value.” *School Leadership That Works*, Robert Marzano,
- Successful people find good in others. Teachers can help students build this talent by affording them opportunities to verbalize compliments and acknowledgements of work well done by classmates. *Raising Self-Reliant Children*, H. Stephen Glenn

Implementation Considerations:

- 1) How have the rationale and benefits of celebrations been explained to students?
- 2) What avenues have been created to provide authentic recognition for student successes, exemplary behavior, excellent attitudes, helpful actions, and contributions to the school?
- 3) How is positive motivational feedback being targeted to match your students’ needs?
- 4) What strategies are employed to move students toward the life-long habit of giving affirmations and congratulations to others of their own volition?
- 5) What is being done to make the classroom environment threat-free and one that encourages students to take risks?
- 6) How are new ideas and ways of completing tasks celebrated?
- 7) What opportunities are students given to create and name their own celebrations, including events such as assemblies?
- 8) How is personal appreciation and encouragement being modeled on a daily basis?
- 9) What is the form of your celebrations? i.e. words of affirmation, pats on back, high fives, knuckle knocks, power claps, fun themes such as the “Elvis”, alligator clap, etc.