

August 17, 2017

**Dear Viking Parents:**

We are excited to start a new year! I want to share with you the work our staff has done over the summer to begin a new behavior management program at Latta High School. We have completed Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) training with all the staff. The elementary and middle schools have long used PBIS as a way to teach behavioral expectations and acknowledge positive behaviors. It is our goal to implement our own version of PBIS in hopes of clarifying behavioral expectations and encouraging behaviors and habits that will be necessary for success in the college and career arenas.

As indicated in the student handbook (p. 13), we have attached the new PBIS policy for Latta High School. We have divided most unproductive behaviors into two categories...office-managed and classroom-managed. Office-managed behaviors are those that are serious enough to warrant an immediate referral to the office in order to protect the learning environment, faculty and students. Classroom-managed behaviors include those repetitive, disruptive behaviors that ultimately destroy a learning environment. **(SEE ATTACHMENT)**

Teachers will be utilizing the PBIS matrix of behavioral expectations in the classroom to address classroom-managed behaviors. We will be taking the first week of school to make sure students understand the behavioral expectations throughout the school, to include modeling those desired behaviors. The behavioral expectations for Classrooms, Hallways, Shared Spaces, Arrival/Departure, and School Events are listed in the matrix and will be enforced school-wide. Please review these expectations with your child and ensure they understand the expectations. If you have questions, please let us know!

The consequences for failing to meet classroom behavioral expectations are attached. Notice, the student is given many opportunities to correct their own behaviors. If this cannot be accomplished, teachers will contact you and ask for your assistance. Please know we want to work together to ensure your child's success in school. IF we are unable to collaboratively improve classroom behaviors, students will eventually serve suspension days. Hopefully, we will not have to get to that point!

I thank you, in advance, for helping us teach your child the importance of **Being his/her BEST, by Being RESPECTFUL, Being RESPONSIBLE and Being SAFE at Latta High School.** After you review this policy and all the important sections of the handbook, which are noted for you on p. 16, **PLEASE SIGN THE GOLD PAPER AT THE BACK OF THE HANDBOOK AND RETURN IT WITH THE OTHER PAPERS IN YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER.** Make sure you have also returned an emergency card, as this is often the only way we know how to reach you in case of an emergency!

Also, I ask that you respect our **new administrative office hours** noted on p. 16. Mr. Miles, Mrs. Bracey, Mrs. Carmichael and I are always willing to assist you, but we need to have more time to work with students and teachers to ensure the best learning environment for your child. If you need to drop-in to speak with us, please do so during the indicated hours. If you require an appointment, you may set one up with our receptionist. If you call us and leave a message, please allow 24 hours for a response.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Ask your child about the video we watched today...and how we are challenging them to **COURAGE UP**...it's going to be a great year to be a Viking!

Leigh Darby Sloan, Principal