



Pepper Ridge Elementary School

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August 29, 2025

Dr. Weikle and Unit 5 Board of Education,

We're writing to celebrate and commend the exceptional work of the School Culture Committee and the **PBIS Kids Club** (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) at Pepper Ridge Elementary School. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental in fostering a truly positive and supportive school climate.

The Power of Positive Reinforcement

The PBIS Kids Club's efforts perfectly align with the core philosophy of the Unit 5 adopted PBIS framework, which focuses on proactive and preventative strategies rather than reactive punishment. By consistently defining, teaching, and reinforcing positive behaviors, they are helping to build a school community where students feel a sense of belonging and are motivated to make good choices. This approach not only improves student behavior but also contributes to a more effective learning environment for everyone.

Key Initiatives and Impact

The PBIS Kids Club has spearheaded several successful initiatives that have had a tangible impact on the school.

To begin with, the School Culture Committee analyzed data to determine what areas needed improvement. Based on those reflections, each month, members of the PBIS Kids Club create videos to teach the expected behavior. They then act out skits to show examples and non-examples of the expected behavior. Students across all grade levels have enjoyed seeing their peers on the big screen.

Secondly, the School Culture team has developed a wonderful "Out of the Blue" program. Each month, students participate in an activity on a random day. The "Out of the Blue" days recognize positive behavior and good choices. Activities have included Cow on a Car/Mobile Dairy Classroom, scavenger hunts, visits with members of the Bloomington Police Department, arts & crafts, STEM activities, book giveaways, and more! Paws, our mascot, gets in on the excitement every month! Members of the PBIS Kids Club assist with activities throughout the year.

Booster Stations are another way the PBIS Kids have helped set positive expectations in the building. In the fall, winter, and spring, we review expectations in different areas of the building. PBIS Kids members help model behaviors during each of these presentations.

Finally, the use of a Puma Cart has been a positive addition to Pepper Ridge. The Puma Cart allows students to redeem earned "Puma Paws" for prizes and is a genius way to reward desired behavior. Each month, a volunteer travels to every classroom to allow students to shop from the cart filled with a wide assortment of items! The students love it and it provides a great incentive to follow the school-wide expectations.

The success of these programs is a direct reflection of the students' hard work and the commitment of their faculty sponsors, Mrs. Corbly and Mrs. Washkuhn, and all of the PBIS Kids members. We are incredibly proud of the Pepper Ridge PBIS Kids Club for their leadership and for demonstrating the power of positive reinforcement in action.

Thank you for your time and continued support of our schools.

Robert Battey, Principal

Kirsten Freeze, Assistant Principal