

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment – School Culture and Climate**

Parent and teacher surveys are conducted in late spring annually; the feedback is reviewed and disseminated to each campus principal. The District averages for the parent survey responses are posted on the district website. The climate survey provides areas of strengths and needs that are addressed in each campus comprehensive needs assessment.

Parent conferences, open house, and curriculum nights are conducted annually on each campus. In addition, annual orientation sessions are conducted for parents and students at the transition grades (i.e., entering kindergarten, elementary to intermediate, intermediate to middle school, and middle school to high school).

Student safety remains of paramount importance to the Aledo AISD and has been demonstrated by:

- (1) In 2016, Aledo Middle School participated in a Full Scale Relocation and Reunification Exercise
- (2) Planning took place across the district to establish procedures for Shelter-In-Place situations. Initial Shelter-in-Place drills were conducted in 2016-2017
- (3) Also in 2016-17, internal safety audits were held across the district
- (4) Finally, every campus completed the following drills in 2016-2017
  - a. Evacuation (fire) Drill once per month (Sep. – May)
  - b. Lockdown Drill once per semester
  - c. Severe Weather Drill once per semester
  - d. Tabletop Drill which are scenario discussions by all staff once per year

Elementary campuses emphasize character development through various programs including Capturing Kids Hearts, Character Plus, Covey's Seven Habits and classroom lessons provided by the counselor. Vandagriff Elementary became a National Showcase School for Capturing Kids Hearts. Specifically, Stuard, McCall, Coder Elementary, and McAnally have a program called Gracefully Strong that serves to build self-esteem in young girls. McAnally Intermediate utilizes Great Expectations and Covey's Seven Habits for character leadership development. At the Ninth Grade Campus, the program, Rachel's Challenge, establishes a safe learning environment for students. The Ninth Grade Campus and Aledo High School have Leading Ladies which is a program that encourages young women in leadership roles. Also at the Ninth Grade Campus, the Top Cat Award is awarded to students who exemplify positive character traits. The Ninth Grade Campus also participate in Capturing Kid's Hearts. Aledo High School has a Teen Leadership course and a core group of teachers have received training in Capturing Kids Hearts. In addition, Aledo High School has a Peer Assistance Program where high school students work with elementary students and with special education students at the high school.

All elementary schools, McAnally, the Middle School, and the Ninth Grade Campus utilize WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) which involves fathers and father figures to help create a safe and secure learning environment. Dads assist in a variety of ways: serving as lunchroom monitors, getting students into the building at the start of the school day, monitoring hallways, assisting with small group needs, and helping load buses after school.

Safe and Drug Free school activities, as approved by the district-wide School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), are conducted annually at all campuses. Below is a partial listing of activities at varied campuses in the district.

- Digital Citizenship Week (District-wide)
- Red Ribbon Week Activities (District-wide)
- National Night Out (District-wide)
- Prescription Drug Awareness Program (Bring in prescription drugs that have expired.)
- Drug and Alcohol Program (Middle School and High School)
- Shattered Dreams Program
- Texas School Drug Survey 2016-17
- CATCH Curriculum
- Rachel's Challenge
- Leading Ladies
- Project Celebration (Senior Class)

Community outreach activities include:

- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Donuts with Dad (Kindergarten)
- Muffins with Mom (Kindergarten)
- BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast (Kindergarten)
- Movies with Mom
- Musical performances
- Grandparent's Day
- Theatrical performances
- Book Fair
- Student artwork / schoolwork displayed in various buildings throughout the district
- Counselor Coffee Talks
- Parenting University
- Connections Mentorship Program
- Herdwise (program with horses for kids with special needs or loss offered by the counselor)
- Evening with the Arts (district wide)
- STEAM Carnival – various projects and functionalities of STEAM Lab (DNGC)
- Cowtown- Runner's Club
- PTO Food Drive
- College Fairs and community guest speakers
- Bearcat 101
- Special Needs Expo for transition services for special education students

Strengths:

- Safe and secure learning environment
- Student Council Leadership Programs across the district
- Community, parents, and staff have high expectations for student achievement in all areas

- Programs related to internet safety and bullying
- High level of parent and community involvement
- High teacher response rate to Teacher Climate Survey; response rate in 2016-17 was 85%
- High level of communication with community, parents, and families
- Aledo Education Foundation (AEF) and local community partnerships
- Aledo PTO
- Parent response rate on the Parent Climate survey in 2016-2017 was 38%

Needs:

- Continue to conduct annual surveys for continuous improvement
- Encourage greater parent participation in the use of district provided online resources (parent portal, teacher website, online textbooks)
- Continue to implement greater in-depth procedures for various emergency situations and disseminate the procedures to both parents and students (e.g. Hazardous Materials spill, active shooter)
- Implement suicide prevention program at the secondary level
- Continue to implement drug curriculum *Too Good for Drugs* in 2016-17 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade to address results of Texas School Drug Survey
- Clearer vision for the future of the district based on parent climate survey
- Consistent and clear communication between teacher and parents