

Student Accountability Initiative

Cloverdale Middle School

Ms. Dawn Tucker

dtucker@cloverdale.k12.in.us

Kathy Moore & Jessica Fidler

Background Leading to this Inquiry

Student Demographics:

- Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of our school population are on free/reduced lunch.
- Title 1 school.
- High Poverty rate; 43 families in our school corporation are homeless.

Our staff overwhelmingly feels that our student demographics affects student learning capacity, attendance, and behavior.

Purpose of This Inquiry

To instill a mindset of “no excuses and accountability” in our students and staff.

Our Wondering

How will implementing a student accountability initiative impact our student learning capacity, attendance, and behavior ?

Our Actions

Promoting Importance of Attendance

- Nine week attendance competition



Promoting Positive Behavior

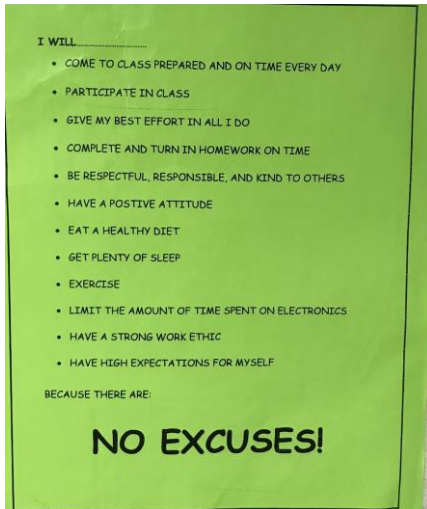
- Weekly Kindness Awards:
 - “Pay It Forward” award for staff
 - Kindness Award/Magnet for students



Our Actions

Promotion of “No Excuses” Mindset

- Posters/banners in hall
- No excuses lessons via Clover Communications



■ - Derek Jeter

Weekly staff video

- Staff members describe their “life path” and what steps were needed to get where they are now (skills, habits)
- Inspire students to take the steps needed to plan for future success

“No Excuses” Pep Session



Data Collection

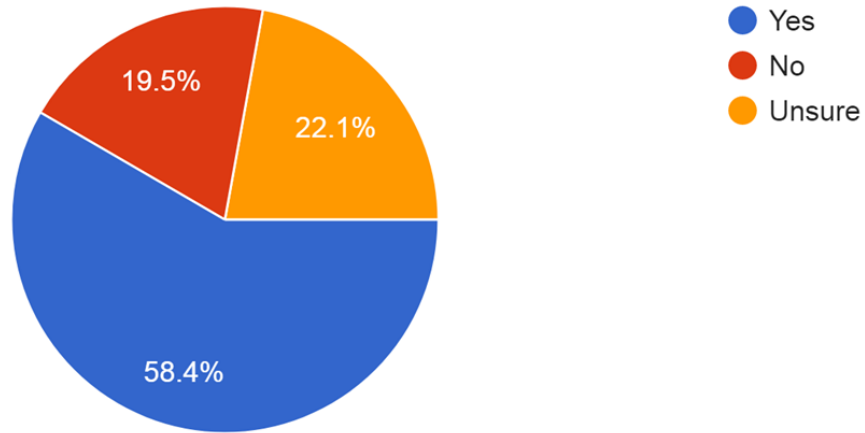
- Weekly attendance tracked by grade level, emailed to teachers to share with students, as well as bulletin board in hallway
- Student Survey
- Photos of students and staff with their Kindness Award



Our Student Data #1

Do you feel the Kindness Award has improved student behavior and attitude within your grade level?

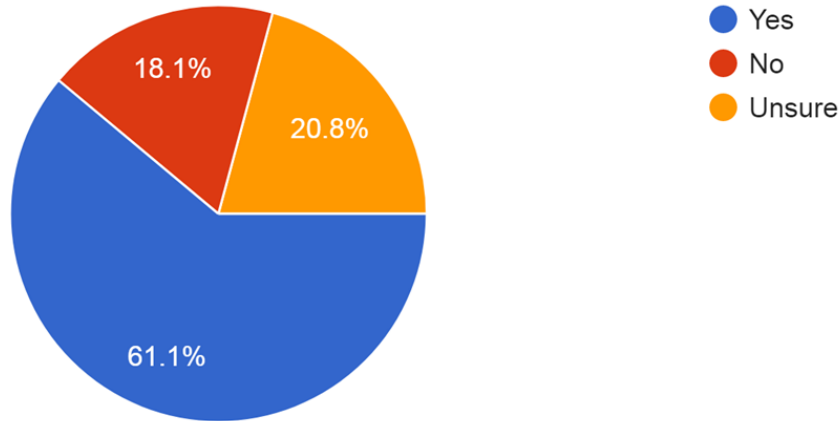
149 responses



Our Student Data #2

Do you feel our CMS “No Excuses” Mindset has motivated you to do your best?

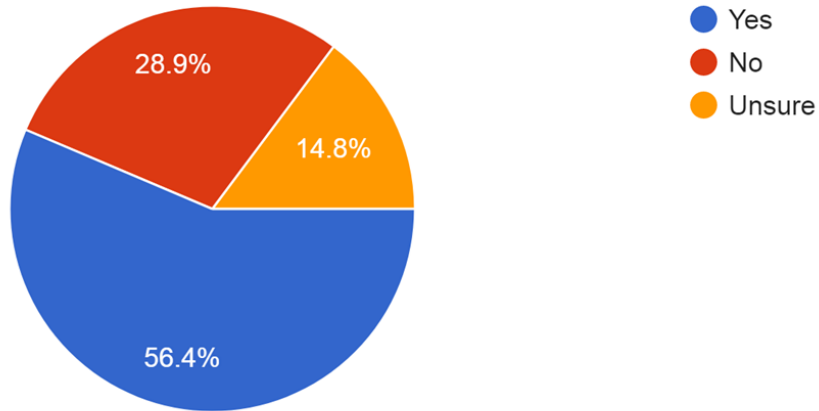
149 responses



Our Student Data #3

Does our CMS Attendance Data competition inspire you to want to come to school every day?

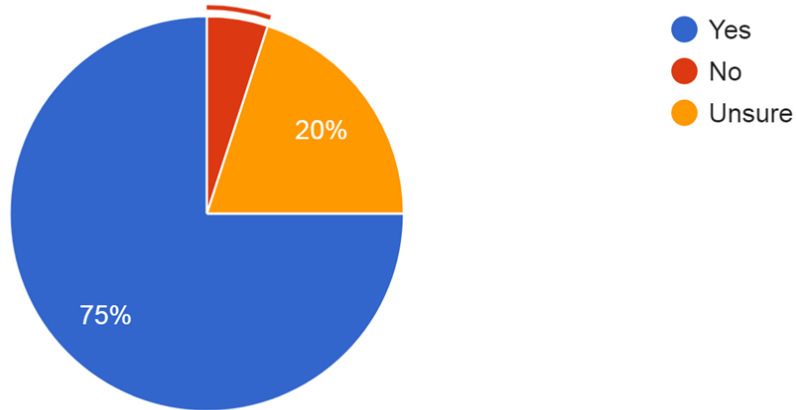
149 responses



Our Staff Data #1

Do you feel the Kindness Award for students has improved student attitude toward school?

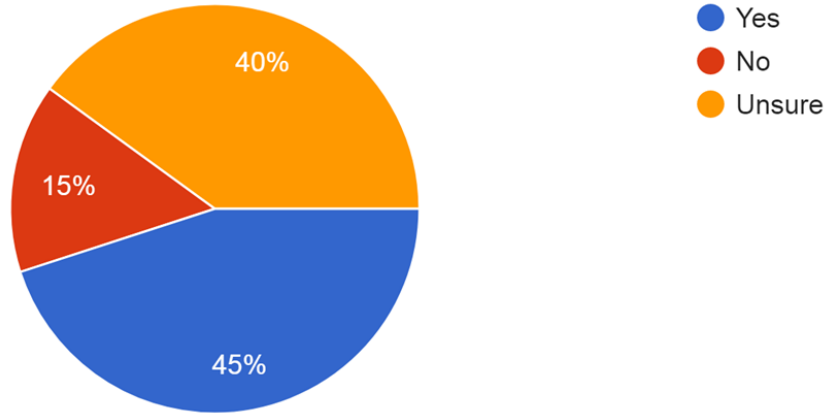
20 responses



Our Staff Data #2

Do you feel our CMS “No Excuses” mindset/initiative has had a positive impact on student learning this year?

20 responses



Our Staff Data #3- Comments

- Four comments were positive regarding “no excuses”/accountability: helps define expectations, has led to a cohesive motto, students have upped their game, at least nice to try something.
- One comment was negative: I don’t see a difference this year as opposed to other years-- this is regarding grade 8 students.
- Four comments were positive regarding our kindness award: well received by students, students and staff look forward to the award, entire mood of building has improved, students strive to win the award.

Our Data- Attendance Competition

Cloverdale Middle School Attendance 1st 9 Weeks

Week	5th	6th	7th	8th
August 7-10	97.38	95.33	98.8	97.83
August 13-17	97.5	97.56	96.08	95.93
August 20-24	96.74	95.61	92.7	95.12
August 27-31	96.67	95.05	94.59	95.47
Sept. 4-7	97.97	95.74	95.78	98.4
Sept. 10-14	96.37	97.28	95.7	97.91
Sept. 17-21	97.19	96.16	95.62	96.53
Sept. 24-28	97.96	94.05	97.03	94.88
Oct. 1-5	96.38	96	97.16	97.56
9 Week Average	97.13	95.86	95.94	96.63

Cloverdale Middle School Attendance 2nd 9 Weeks

Week	5th	6th	7th	8th
Oct. 8-12	97.23	95.76	95.16	96.05
Oct. 22-26	96.49	95.18	97.16	93.58
Oct. 29-Nov. 2	97.2	95.42	94.49	94.05
Nov. 5-9	94.83	94.76	94.19	95.62
Nov. 12-16	93.6	97.04	95.28	93.02
Nov. 19-20	96.51	91.98	96.53	92.73
Nov. 26-30	96.11	95.8	92.47	95.23
Dec. 3-7	96.09	95.43	93.75	94.23
Dec. 10-14	95.59	94.15	93.89	93.79
Dec. 17-20	94.35	96.06	94.37	94.25
9 Week Average	95.80	95.16	94.73	94.26

Cloverdale Middle School Attendance 3rd 9 Weeks

Week	5th	6th	7th	8th
Jan. 3-4	94.84	92.09	96.45	94.25
Jan. 7-11	94.54	97.18	92.7	97.25
Jan. 14-18	97.8	96.92	90.99	93.93
Jan. 22-24	97.27	95.19	94.01	97.33
Jan. 28- Feb 1	89.95	92.25	95.05	91.71
Feb. 4-8	89.57	93.11	97.25	91.46
Feb. 11-15	96.29	92.44	95.14	93.26
Feb. 19-22	96.26	90.77	94.29	93.75
Feb. 25-March 1	94.18	92.44	92.86	95.22
March 4-8	95.97	92.44	91.57	93.82
March 11-15	94.57	93.21	90.57	90.49
9 Week Average	94.66	93.46	93.72	93.86

Our Discoveries

- Staff: Based on data and staff comments, the “No Excuses” mindset appears to be a positive starting point improving the learning environment in our building .
- Students: Based on data, students overwhelmingly felt behavior, accountability, and attendance has improved.

Where We Are Heading Next

We see the student accountability initiative evolving as we continue to strive to positively impact the learning environment at Cloverdale Middle School.

- Focus on one “No Excuses” character trait per month, schoolwide.
 - Highlighted in Clover Communications and publications for school newspaper.
 - Create grade level posters to display in hallways and classrooms for discussion.
- Continue with attendance data competition amongst grade levels.
- Continue with Kindness Award for staff and students.
- Continue with “No Excuses” pep sessions, during the school year.

Bibliography

Dana, N. F. (2009). *Leading With Passion and Knowledge*. Thousand Oaks, California: Corwin Press.

Marzano, R. J., Warrick, P., & Simms, J. A. (2014). *A Handbook for High Reliability Schools*. Marzano Research

Student Accountability Initiative

Principal Name: Ms. Dawn Tucker

School Name: Cloverdale Middle School

Team Members' Names: Mrs. Jessica Fidler and Mrs. Kathy Moore

Principal's Email Contact: dtucker@cloverdale.k12.in.us

Background Leading to Our Inquiry

Our student demographics led to our accountability initiative. Almost 2/3 of our students qualify for free/reduced lunches. We have a high poverty rate; 43 families in our school corporation are homeless. In addition, we are a Title I school. Our staff overwhelmingly feels that our student demographics affects student learning capacity, attendance, and behavior.

The Purpose of Our Inquiry

Therefore, the purpose of our action inquiry was to instill a mindset of “no excuses and accountability” in our students and staff.

Our Wondering

With this purpose we wondered, how would implementing a student accountability initiative impact our learning capacity, attendance, and behavior?

Our Actions

We implemented several actions for our first year of our accountability initiative:

- We promoted the importance of attendance via a nine week, grade level attendance competition.
- We promoted Positive Behavior via weekly Kindness Awards for both staff and students.
- We promoted a “no excuses” mindset via posters in our halls and classrooms, within our Clover Communications daily news, and by holding two “no excuses” pep sessions.
- Each week a staff member video was shown via Clover Communications. Each staff member shared their “life path” and what steps were needed to get to where they are now in their life.

Data Collection

We tracked data utilizing three methods:

- Attendance was tracked each week, displayed on an attendance bulletin board, and emailed to teachers each week to share with their students.
- We sent a survey to both students and to staff requesting feedback for our initiative.
- We have included photos of students receiving the Kindness Award, as well as staff receiving the Kindness Pay it Forward traveling trophy.

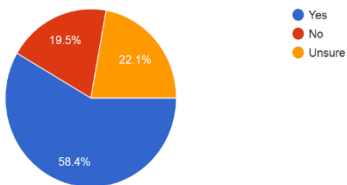
Our Data



STUDENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

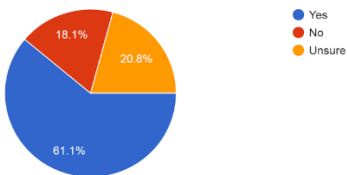
Do you feel the Kindness Award has improved student behavior and attitude within your grade level?

149 responses



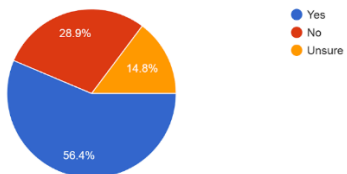
Do you feel our CMS "No Excuses" Mindset has motivated you to do your best?

149 responses



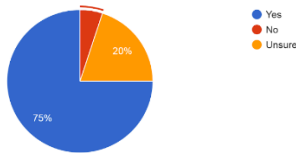
Does our CMS Attendance Data competition inspire you to want to come to school every day?

149 responses

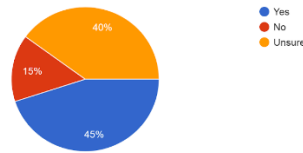


STAFF SURVEY QUESTIONS

Do you feel the Kindness Award for students has improved student attitude toward school?
20 responses



Do you feel our CMS "No Excuses" mindset/initiative has had a positive impact on student learning this year?
20 responses



Our Discoveries

Learning Statement One: Overall, the majority of our staff feels the "No Excuses and Accountability" initiative is a positive starting point.

Learning Statement Two: The majority of our students feel the "No Excuses and Accountability" initiative has made a positive impact with their learning capacity, attendance, and attitude.

Based on our data, 45% of our staff feels our new initiative has had a positive impact on student learning. 40% stated they were unsure. We believe these numbers reflect the fact that we are at the beginning stages and may not see a significant change until our initiative has been in place for a longer period of time. Based on our data, 75% of our staff feels student attitude towards school has improved. We are pleased to see our staff feels strongly about this component. Of all the staff comments gleaned, there was only one negative comment. This comment was in regards to 8th grade students and their attitudes. Positive comments include the following: helps define expectations, has led to a cohesive motto, students have upped their game, entire mood of the building has improved. Our student survey indicates the following: 58.4% of our students feel the Kindness Award has improved student behavior within their grade level, 61.1% feel our new initiative has motivated them to do their best, and 56.4% feel our nine week attendance competition has inspired them to want to come to school every day.

Where We Are Headed Next

We see the student accountability initiative evolving as we continue to strive to positively impact the learning environment at Cloverdale Middle School. We plan to continue with the following:

- Attendance data competition amongst grade levels.
- Kindness Award for staff and students.
- "No Excuses" pep sessions two times during the school year.
- We plan to add the following for 2019-2020:
 - Focus on one "No Excuses" character trait per month, school wide.
 - Highlighted in Clover Communications and publications for school newspaper.
 - Create grade level posters to display in hallways and classrooms for discussion.

Bibliography

Dana, N. F. (2009). *Leading With Passion and Knowledge*. Thousand Oaks, California: Corwin Press.

Marzano, R. J., Warrick, P., & Simms, J. A. (2014). *A Handbook for High Reliability Schools*. Marzano Research