

YPE PRESENTATION: SPRING 2017

Sanford Middle School YPE Student Leadership Group

At Sanford, we have a yellow expectation poster in every classroom that say:

EVERYONE BELONGS, EVERYONE SUCCEEDS

The YPE team brainstormed what it means to belong and what concrete actions happen so we feel like we belong at Sanford. We concluded that a part of feeling like *we belong*, is grounded in our relationship and connection with teachers and staff.

Research question:

How do Sanford students and teachers build connections with each other?

Data Collection Method:

- The YPE team created a survey
- Each YPE team member surveyed their advisory class
- The survey was paper/pencil
- The survey consisted of: YES/NO questions, multiple choice questions and open ended questions
- Team processed the surveys

Survey Questions:

1. Things I do to connect with my teachers are:
2. Things I do to help other students connect with teachers:
3. What my teachers do to connect with me:
4. Are you quiet in class? YES NO
5. Are you talkative in class? YES NO
6. What grade are you in? 6 7 8
7. Additional comments about how to make Sanford a better school:

Results:

1. Things I do to connect with my teachers are:

Ranked from highest to lowest: Say Hi, talk before, after class or passing time, talk about things outside of school, attend lunch groups, private conversations with teachers during work time.

Write in answers: ask for help, draw for them, give them cards, smile at them.

2. Things I do to help other students connect with teachers:

Ranked from highest to lowest: participate in classroom activities, encourage other students to ask for help, participate in advisory activities, talk positive about the teacher to peers

Write in answers: NONE

3. What my teachers do to connect with me:

Ranked from highest to lowest: say hi to me when I come in the classroom, call on me in class, group activities in class, say positive things about me, let me help out in the class, ask about things outside of school, invite me to lunch in the classroom, invite me to after school help.

Write in answers: ask if I need help, ask me questions, bring treats, attend afterschool activities like soccer games and theatre.

4. Are you quiet in class? 5. Are you talkative in class?

Split 50/50, some students reported being quiet and talkative.

6. What grade are you in?

The survey was completed evenly between 6, 7, and 8 grades.

7. Additional comments about how to make Sanford a better school:

Additional comments had 4 main themes:

1. **MORE MOVEMENT:** More gym time, more recess, more field trips, more games outside, more fun time in class, one class period of free time, one free day every month, allow students to talk more, more free time in class, play music in class, unban fidget spinners, Use phones in class when done with work, Longer passing time, more SAM passes
2. **DRESS CODE:** change the dress code
3. **FILL YOUR BUCKET:** to be kind to each other, people should stop being mean and stop judging, be fair with rules, by following directions, always help each other and encourage each other, stop bullying, teachers listen to both sides of story, try your best, be positive, more activities for kids to get to know each other better,
4. **FOOD:** water at lunch, better lunches, snacks in the afternoon

What we learned:

1. Students are able to identify ways that they are connecting with teachers and helping peers connect with teachers.
2. Students are able to identify ways that teachers are connecting with them.
3. Students have ideas on how to make Sanford a better school.

Recommendations:

1. Students and teachers continue to find ways to build connections
2. Give the survey to teachers
3. Use data from the additional comments for next years YPE research question
 - YPE team present findings of survey to Sanford's Student Engagement Team
 - YPE team present findings to the advisory classes that were surveyed

EVERYONE: Thank you for your time, any questions?