



Connecticut Farms School
We are Patriot Pride
Handbook for Parents

We show Patriot Pride when we demonstrate these three expectations: Respect, Self-Control, and Kindness.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Table of Contents

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Positive Behavior Support in Schools

The Reason for Being Patriot Pride

At Connecticut Farms School, we really value our parents and the important role they play in the students' education. To help support our partnership, we are sending you this handbook to help communicate what PBIS means and what we are implementing in school to support students through positive behavior support.

Two years ago, the district partnered with (NJPBSIS) New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools to design and implement a school-wide intervention practice that would focus on promoting positive student behavior, improving our sense of community, and providing support for students who need a little extra help. We have been working with a PBSIS coach to support this initiative. If you would like more information, you can visit the NJPBSIS website (www.njpbs.org).

Research suggests that schools with a positive social climate are associated with fewer occurrences of conduct problems and better student performance outcomes, both achievement and attendance. Affirming positive behavior, teaching social skills, equipping teachers with the skills to meet the needs of diverse learners, getting student input, and using multi-setting interventions are all examples of recommended practices for promoting a positive school climate. While a positive school climate benefits all students, students with individual behavior support planning, need particular benefits. When school environments are positive, welcoming, and supportive of individual needs everyone thrives. Through the NJPBSIS initiative, we are learning about how to enhance our school's climate and atmosphere. In particular, we are focusing on how to:

1. Clearly define for students what is expected of them.
2. Be consistent across staff and grade levels in how we talk to students about those expectations.
3. Improve our procedures and routines so the school day runs smoothly.
4. Provide lots of encouragement and social praise when students display the school expectations.
5. Make students feel welcomed and valued.
6. Encourage positive interactions between students and between students and staff.
7. Provide students with help and support to overcome challenges and difficulties academically, socially, and behaviorally.

We are excited to present this handbook to you as an overview of what Patriot Pride means at Connecticut Farms School. This handbook will provide you with a list of the behavior expectations we have for our students and the exciting recognition system we are putting in place to celebrate our students' accomplishments. Throughout the year, we will be sharing with you ideas and suggestions for how you can talk with your child about sharing Patriot Pride at home.

Expectations by Locations

In our first year of implementation, we asked our school body to determine our core values. The school body completed a survey and the values that were chosen were; **Self-control, Respect, and Kindness.**

After discussing these values, the PBIS committee then discussed with the staff how our expectations would be recognized throughout our school.

The following expectations are posted throughout our school to help everyone recognize what the expectations are:

<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS CAFETERIA RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Follow adults' directions. Use an inside voice. Raise hand before leaving seat. Clean up your area. </div>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS HALLWAY RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Follow adults' directions. Use an inside voice. Walk at all times. Go directly to your destination. </div>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS PLAYGROUND RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Follow adults' directions. Use kind words. Share and be respectful of equipment. Look before running, throwing, or kicking. Return all equipment after use. Wait for teacher in line when bell rings. </div>
<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS BATHROOM RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Use an inside voice. Flush the toilet. Wash and dry your hands. Be responsible and safe. Give privacy-closed door. </div>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS AUDITORIUM RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Follow adults' directions. Use an inside voice. Enter and exit quietly. Stay in your seat. Walk at all times. Eyes and ears on the presenter. </div>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONNECTICUT FARMS CLASSROOM RULES</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PATRIOT PRIDE </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Follow adults' directions. Use an inside voice. Raise hand before leaving seat. Always do your best. </div>

Teaching Students the Expectations

To increase students' understanding of expectations at the beginning of the school year, classroom teachers will provide lessons on the expectations in the above-mentioned locations. These lessons will teach students the correct expectations when in the hallway, cafeteria, staircase, auditorium, playground, and bathrooms. After lessons within the classrooms, grade level meetings will be established to review the expectations within each grade. The overall goal is to allow students experiences with the correct expectations of what Patriot Pride means. By using an instructional approach, students are more likely to internalize these behaviors as regular habits. Ongoing throughout the year, the school will have activities and instruction specifically targeting the behaviors we expect of our students. Some of the activities we have planned for this year include

- Patriot Pride Pledge
- Pep Rally
- Patriot Ambassadors

Celebrating Our Students' Accomplishments

One of the most important things we can do is give our students positive feedback for the positive choices they are making. We want them to know when they have done the right thing and that we are proud of them. To celebrate our students, we have developed a fun recognition system that we will be using at our school.

1. We encourage students to continue engaging in positive behaviors.
2. We reinforce the benefit of making good choices so that when a student faces a "tempting" bad choice they have a history of positive interactions with staff to firm up their resolve.
3. Patriot Pride passes can be very helpful to encourage students working on a behavior improvement goal to keep trying.
4. Providing praise to students helps build a positive adult-student relationship.

Procedures for the Patriot Pride Passes

Students will have opportunities daily to earn Patriot Pride passes from teachers and other staff when they demonstrate the attributes of **Kindness, Respect, and Self-Control**. Patriot Pride passes will have a variety of ways to be recognized. Recognition can come from a classroom reward system, grade level rewards, or building-based awards. The following examples are just examples and are not intended to be defined as the only ones.

Classroom Level Examples: Being a helper, Teacher for the Day, extra device time.

Grade Level Examples: Extra recess.

Building Level Examples: Bubble party, Movie Party, Trade Tickets for a Prize.

We Need Volunteers

- Help us in a variety of ways to support our PBIS initiative. This could be coming to school to help when randomly selecting names of prize winners or it could be supporting with a special craft or incentive idea. Students love to see their parents participating and we love to have the help.
- Offer to "Be a Special Prize". Perhaps you play an instrument or have a special talent, or love to bake. Let us know what your special talents are and we can find a way to incorporate them within our prize options. For example, your talent could be; Playing a couple of songs on the guitar for the grade level or class, or working with the art teacher on a special project. Help make a special dessert for a grade level or class. There are so many ways you can help to make our PBIS initiative come to life and be gratifying for the students.

Give Suggestions and Feedback

- Do you have some ideas for incentives for the students, fundraising ideas, or special activities to celebrate our students?
- Do you have feedback on how your child is responding or what they are saying about Patriot Pride Passes and PBIS that you think we should hear?
- Twice a year, in the winter and spring we will be sending you a survey. Please complete so that we can continuously reflect on what we are doing and how to improve.
- If you want to get involved or volunteer, please email Mrs. Michelle C. Osborne-Warren at michelle.warren@twpunionschools.org.