

First Class Families



Positive Behavior Support in Schools The Basis for First Class Falcons

Since September, we have been working hard with our school climate initiative at “**First Class Falcons**”. Last year, we partnered with the New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJ PBSIS) initiative to design and implement school-wide interventions that will focus on promoting positive student behavior, improve our sense of community, and provide supports for students who need a little extra help.

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Research suggests that schools with a positive social climate are associated with fewer occurrences of conduct problems and better student performance outcomes (e.g., 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 individualized behavior support planning needs particularly benefit when school environments are positive, welcoming, and supportive of individual needs. Through the NJ PBSIS initiative, we are learning about how to enhance our school’s climate and atmosphere.

In particular, are focus is to:

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

Here at BTMS we really value our parents/guardians and the important role you play in our students’ education. We are working hard to reach out to you more often and tell you about what we are doing.

First Class Tickets

First Class Tickets are another way of saying ‘**Thank you**’ for making a good behavior choice. Whether a small behavior (e.g., holding the door) or a big behavior (e.g., helping a friend who is being bullied). First Class Tickets help us reinforce the kinds of behaviors we want to see.

The benefits we have observed using First Class Tickets include:

- Students are encouraged to continue engaging in positive behaviors.
- Students are making better choices, so that when a student faces a ‘tempting’ bad choice they have the history of positive interactions with staff to firm up their resolve.
- Tickets have been helpful to encourage students working on a behavior improvement goals to keep trying.
- Staff members have been providing more praise to students to help build a positive adult- student relationship.

When a student receives a “First Class Ticket,” they have two options.

- **Option 1:** They can place their ticket in a weekly raffle. Students who do not win the weekly raffle, will automatically be entered in the monthly and quarterly raffles. (*Bins for the raffle are located in each homeroom and in the lunchroom.*)
- **Option 2:** They can trade-in tickets utilizing the “First Class Falcon” Store. (*Store is open Tuesday/Thursday 7:30—8:00am*)

First Class Lounge Opening a Success!!



Students are able to earn their way in the lounge by winning our quarterly raffle or by redeeming a lounge pass for after school at the First Class Lounge. Lounge passes will be worth 120 tickets and are available at the First Class Falcon store. The lounge was made possible by Student Council in collaboration with our First Class Faculty! Student Council members had the chance to preview the lounge during lunch on November 29th. Our first quarterly raffle winners enjoyed a lunch of their choice in the lounge on Friday, November 30th!