

***Parents/Guardians – Please read thoroughly and discuss the content of this important document with your child. We ask that all families sign and return the bottom portion acknowledging that they have received, read and discussed the Lincoln Heights Discipline Approach.**

Parents and Lincoln Heights Elementary staff members all agree that building and maintaining a safe and orderly school where behavior does not interfere with learning is a top priority. In order to accomplish this goal, we must be on the same page and working collaboratively. It is important for parents and guardians to know, understand and contribute to the Lincoln Heights Positive Behavior Support (PBS) approach to discipline.

The school has a PBS Team that is comprised of a central office PBS Coach, administrators, specialists, classroom teachers and a parent representative. The Team discusses school wide interventions and strategies that are supporting students and trouble shoots ideas for how to continually improve. The Team designs professional development for the staff, workshops for parents, and even meetings with other school system professionals that work with our students such as bus drivers. They are constantly at work to implement, evaluate and revise our efforts to work with student behavior and create a positive school climate.

There are times when the proactive approaches that are implemented through PBS do not meet the needs of the students. In those cases other approaches to maintaining a safe school are utilized. For major disciplinary infractions, such as **fighting, stealing, threatening or inappropriate touch, suspension will most likely be utilized.** It is important that students and parents understand that in most situations, all involved students are disciplined. If another students “starts” a conflict, we teach our students that they always have a choice in their response. The Lincoln Heights staff is here to keep ALL students safe and if they seek help from an adult, we will respond appropriately; however, if a student responds with an inappropriate behavior (e.g., hitting back, threatening, etc.) the responding child could be suspended as well.

Suspensions are used for these major offenses to communicate a clear message to students that this behavior is inappropriate at our school. Removing students from their classroom and from the school setting for these offenses communicates that we find that behavior unacceptable and disruptive to the positive environment that we seek to maintain. Suspensions are typically one to three days and are always precluded by an investigation and contact with parents. Mrs. Crawford and I will meet with all classes to discuss “Red Book” infractions (offenses that can result in suspension in all Wake County schools) that can escalate into suspendable offenses. We will also talk about alternative choices and have a Q&A time with students.

Creating a school with an established culture of respect, safety, and shared understanding of what expected behaviors are takes time and a commitment from all members of the school.

The Lincoln Heights staff is committed to supporting and encouraging positive behaviors/choices:

For most students, much misbehavior can be avoided by establishing a strong rapport, providing a need-fulfilling environment, and modeling expectations. Each classroom establishes a social contract at the beginning of the year. When behavior is exhibited that violates the social contract, intervention strategies should focus on the behavior, not the child. Consequences are logical and agreed upon prior to the misbehavior. Minimum attention is given to “why” the behavior occurred. Rather, the goal is to understand and accept having made a “bad choice”, to commit to a plan that would allow for a “better choice” next time, and wherever harm to property or others is involved, provide opportunity to make restitution. *A copy of the classroom social contract will be made available to parents.*

The responsibility of each Lincoln Heights Elementary staff member is to model and to teach the students how to follow behavior expectations and procedures. We must teach the students what acceptable behavior looks like and provide them with strategies to help them make good and appropriate choices regarding their behavior. Teaching students how to solve their own problems using conflict resolution is one such strategy. Our ultimate goal at Lincoln Heights Elementary is to make each child responsible for his/her own behavior.

We appreciate your support as we move through this process and the hard work of the staff. If you have any questions about our beliefs, our response to behavior, PBS, suspensions, or any of the work we are doing at Lincoln Heights Elementary, please call us or drop in the office. We can be reached by phone at 557-2587 or milindademchakcrawford@wcpss.net and krackley@wcpss.net.

Sincerely,

Mindy Crawford, Kathy Rackley and the Lincoln Heights staff

Parents/Guardians and Students

Please sign in acknowledgement of receiving, reading and understanding expectations for behavior at Lincoln Heights Elementary:

Parent/Guardian Signature-

Student Signature-
