Positive School Culture

SAMPLE ISSUE
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School Culture

We hear about the best places to work...and maybe we’re a bit jealous. Southwest Airlines. HubSpot. Zappos. Great companies build a culture that appreciates employee contributions, celebrates work-life balance, and honors professional growth and learning. This is not by chance; it’s purposeful and intensive, and it pays off. The result? Happy employees and a positive public perception of the company.

School culture is not really that different. Developing a positive school culture takes effort and diligence. It involves a foundational set of beliefs, behaviors, and attitudes that permeate interactions amongst people and influence strategy and decisions.

And school culture is not just the feeling you get when you first enter a school, walls laden with mission statements, mottos, and banners. It’s evident in the warmth you feel from students and staff and the energy and vibe stretching into the hallways that sound like chaos, but is evidence of a joyful and vibrant learning environment. It’s the way the principal, teachers, and staff talk about the school, even when off campus. Positive school culture is everywhere.

Positive school culture is at work when students express concern for another student’s absence, when a teacher volunteers his or her classroom to another teacher needing extra space for an activity, and when a visitor to the school seems lost and the nearest student jumps in to ask if they can help them find their way.

Building a positive school culture is a process. The authors in this issue offer you a variety of approaches, all with common threads, including that it takes diligence, consistency, and attentiveness to maintain; school culture evolves over time; it is celebratory and fun; it includes and depends on student voice; and it’s an attitude shared by all staff and students. And most important, it’s about being part of something that’s bigger than you, but also values you. 🌍

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