

“Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.”

— James Baldwin

Whatever it Takes



WEST SEATTLE ELEMENTARY HUSKIES - APRIL 2017

Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools –McRel Study-High Poverty Schools

- ▶ Clear & Shared Focus
- ▶ High Standards & Expectations
- ▶ Effective School Leadership
- ▶ High Levels of Collaboration & Communication
- ▶ Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Aligned with Standards
- ▶ Frequent Monitoring of Teaching and Learning
- ▶ Focused Professional Development
- ▶ Supportive Learning Environment
- ▶ High Levels of Community & Parent Involvement

The West Seattle Elementary Difference

Leadership

- ❑ Set Culture(Hallway, lunch, before and after school).
- ❑ Kids respond to all adults (ownership of all students)
- ❑ Clear expectations: teachers, staff, students, community partners and parents.
- ❑ Reach out to staff for help; it's ok to struggle and ask for help
- ❑ Defined culture, people choose to stay or leave

Analyze Discipline Data

- ❑ Teachers in charge of Recess for their classrooms.
- ❑ Staggered Lunches
- ❑ Instruction tailored to our population (structures, scheduling, routines, workshop model for ELA/Math, bell to bell instruction)

High Expectations

- ❑ Diversity amongst certificated staff (gender/racial/religious)
- ❑ Difference between setting high expectations and executing high expectations.
- ❑ Teacher interns – grow our own teachers
- ❑ Teacher driven extracurricular after school activities
- ❑ Build relationships/student buy in
- ❑ Small to big (Vicki knitting)
- ❑ invite

Growth Mindset & Practices * * *** Relationship-Focused**

- **Recognize that there is ALWAYS room for Growth.**
- **Clear Expectations (80/20 Rule)**
- **Data-Driven**
- **Flexible**
- **Do Whatever it Takes to KNOW the students and their families.**
- **Go beyond expectations.**

Overarching Themes
to Closing the GAP



Moving Forward

- ▶ More professional development around Cultural Competencies.
- ▶ Creative Schools Approach.
- ▶ Autonomy, Flexibility & Trust
- ▶ Keep an eye on the "whole child" data; use to inform next steps

