

What Parents Should Know About MiBLSi

MiBLSi stands for Michigan's Behavior and Learning Support Initiative. It is a grant program through the State of Michigan that helps schools implement a Positive Behavior Support Plan and reading interventions.

The State has mandated that all schools implement a Positive Behavior Support Plan and offered this training grant to Mancelona Middle School beginning 2010-2011.

There are two main parts of the MiBLSi program. The first part is a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Plan. The theory behind PBIS is that in order to change problem behavior you must teach expected behavior and then positively reinforce that behavior.

To reinforce expected behaviors, the staff is working on specifically complementing expected behaviors. Currently we use the Caught Red Handed program as a universal building wide positive behavior reinforcement program. Several other programs are working within specific grade levels as well as around the building. Review your child's school handbook as well as our webpage for more information.

We are finding that by rewarding positive behavior simultaneously with holding a firm line on negative behavior students are better able to enjoy their school time. As in many middle schools around the country negative behaviors seem to increase after elementary school. Here at Mancelona Middle School we are no exception. The very good news is that we have over 300 students and we are seeing that only a small handful of those 300 find their way to the office or AIC for disciplinary action. The vast majority of our students come to school ready to truly enjoy the experience! We want to continue to encourage students to find school a wonderful place to not only learn, but to socialize, make friends and add wonderful memories to their lives. To this end, we will be taking a firm stance on negative behavior as they detract from other's ability to enjoy school to its fullest.

If a family finds that their child is ending up in the office too much, please contact the school to find out how you can help to curb this behavior. We need parents help with those students who 'get into trouble' too much.

To address the reading portion of the grant, all students in the school were screened for reading difficulties. This data will be entered in the computer and we will be able to see which students need extra help. We are in the process of trying to set up a targeted intervention program for the students who need more help than we can currently provide during the school day. Once we have identified those students in need of additional support we will begin to work with them in a manner consistent with their needs.

We are just beginning the first year of our three-year grant cycle. The staff and students are learning the language and procedures of the MiBLSi model. There are sure to be some bumps in the road, but when we finally have everything in place, Mancelona Middle School will be a more productive place for our students.

If you have any questions about MiBLSi, please feel free to call the office, 231-587-9869