



PBIS BULLETIN FOR PARENTS



Dear Deerfield Families,

As you all know, Deerfield embraces a school-wide behavioral system, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, or PBIS for short. This nationally renowned program is already making a difference at our school, as our students strive for the “Falcon Five:” Kind, Honest, Focused, Respectful and Responsible. A research-based initiative, and implemented in several other schools in Irvine, PBIS directly benefits children by creating a predictable, positive, safe, and consistent school culture, reducing at-risk behaviors, increasing student engagement, and hence improving academic performance. PBIS has made a difference at schools across the country and Deerfield’s staff has been participating in ongoing training and preparation to insure its success at our school. Each year, we will be continuing to integrate the Falcon Five and PBIS principles in our daily school activities and, as parents, you will be hearing from your children about these behaviors regularly.

Many of your children have already come home excited to receive a Falcon Five card from a teacher or staff member. These “spot awards” or “gotchas” are meant to be given to students when they are exhibiting one or more of the Falcon Five behaviors throughout the day and across their campus activities. The staff has come up with many incentives that will appeal to students and each ticket can be used as a chance to earn those incentives within the classroom setting. Also, at the end of each month, two Falcon Five students in each classroom will be drawn and selected to join me and the other winners at a special Falcon Five Fun Friday and Lunch with the Principal. Students will partake in an extended lunch with special activities planned.

Additionally, each month, teachers will be asked to nominate students who have exemplified one of the Falcon Five traits. From those nominees, selected students from each grade level will be announced to the school over the loudspeaker, invited the principal’s office to receive a certificate, and will receive recognition on a special Fabulous Falcon Five bulletin board in the MPR for the month. Our monthly Falcon Five winners will also be recognized in the Principal’s Newsletter and a yearbook page will be designated to honor all of our yearly recipients. Students will also get to participate in a special poster making session with healthy snacks and a myriad of art supplies to choose from to design her/his decorative poster. In addition, we have teamed up with the Kiwanis Club to implement the Bringing Up Grades, or BUG program. At the end of each trimester students earning an improved grade in math will receive a certificate and be invited to a congratulatory pizza party.

Bring the Falcon Five traits home to the family! We hope that you will reinforce these behaviors in your home as well, and give your child lots of praise when they exhibit Falcon Five behavior. This year we are also reaching out to local vendors to solicit their participation with our Falcon Five and to make this a genuine community effort to reinforce positive behavior. On behalf of the entire Deerfield staff, I thank you for your support and look forward to the continued positive impact this program is having on our school.

Sincerely,

Kathy McKeown
Principal