

Six Strategies to Improve School Culture

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1. Celebrate the Good!

- Pay attention to the positive things that happen every day. This includes faculty, staff, admin, students, and even parents!
 - Set a daily goal to compliment five people per day.

2. Make School Fun!

- Implementing small doses of fun throughout the year helps keep morale high. Spirit days/weeks, lunch karaoke, Kahoot!, plays, sporting events, weekly student council videos, students of the week, etc.
 - Shoot for at least two per month.

3. Provide Choice!

- Let students, and faculty, have choices throughout the year. One-size fits all doesn't work in education.
 - Offer a range of assessments for students and a variety of professional development opportunities for teachers.

4. Get Parents Involved!

- Parents can either build up or tear down any school culture. Allowing them opportunities to become aware about what is happening at school invites them to be positive participants.
 - Send emails home, ask for volunteers, get feedback. Working with parents is much better than working against parents!

5. Establish and Maintain School Norms

- Norms should focus on building positive school values, and consistently maintaining them is essential. Implementing social and emotional learning (SEL) skills are an easy starting point in the creation of positive norms.
 - Try to avoid using "no" when creating your norms.

6. Focus on Learning, Not Testing

- Schools are places where the process of learning is often overshadowed by the product of test scores. Let students build off of what they know, not what they are *supposed* to know.
 - Celebrate growth rather than scores.