



Explorer Parents,

Our school improvement committees have worked diligently to put into place many proactive, instructive and restorative approaches and strategies to support our students in meeting school wide conduct expectations. This is a letter from earlier this school year that we are sending home with each student. There will be a new page added to our school website for you to view our new flow chart and resources and give feedback to our committee. Additionally, Principal Graf will be conducting two Coffee and Conversation sessions in which parents can attend, view a brief presentation and give feedback about the processes and supports. We look forward to deepening our partnerships with you and moving East Garner Elementary toward higher success.

What is Capturing Kids' Hearts?

Capturing Kids' Hearts is a relationship building approach to discipline that creates self-managing groups.

How does it work?

Teachers use the EXCEL model to communicate with students. Students create their own rules via a social contract. Students hold each other accountable using "checks" and "fouls". An environment is created that emphasizes positivity through "good things" and "affirmations".

The EXCEL model is used:

- to build relationships
- to build self-managing groups
- to build safe classrooms and schools

Engage: Students are greeted at the door with a handshake, eye contact and a warm welcome.

X-plore: Teachers listen and attend to the personal, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

Communicate: Teachers communicate care, as well as content.

Empower: Teachers empower students to gain the ability to "use and do" the things they have been taught.

Launch: Deals with how we "end and send" our students into the world. The purpose is to start our students on a course of action by ending our classes on a powerful note.

Class Dojo

All classrooms should be utilizing the Class Dojo to share out classroom information, pictures of learning activities and to communicate with parents. The app is available for iPhones and Android cell phones.

School-wide Expectations

Students are taught, encouraged and expected to follow our school code of conduct. The code of conduct is captured in the proactive theme we refer to as MAPS. MAPS are taught for all common areas in the building including the cafe, recess, hallways and restrooms. Each classroom teacher sets the expectations for MAPS in the classroom through their social contract, which students give input and determine the expectations for how they will work and learn in the classroom with guidance from the teacher. Each child is then held accountable for working towards meeting the social contract.

M	Make Smart Choices	A	Always do your best	P	Practice Self Control	S	Show Respect
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We believe that in all circumstances in school, we should try to follow the Golden Rule: Treat Others the Same Way that You Would Want to be Treated. Each of us plays a role in developing a child in order to grow them to be a good student and a good person. And finally, we want to share with expectations that clearly define our role as educators and your role as a parent of young child. Your role begins at home before the school bell rings but it influences your child's behavior, interactions with their peers, towards their teachers and all guests they interact with during the day. When your child comes to school we will expect the following common courtesies:

- We would like to remind you that magic words such as hello, please, you're welcome, I'm sorry, and thank you, all begin to be learned at home. We will reinforce and expect these common courtesies to be used by your child each and every day.
- It's also at home that children learn to be honest, to be on time, diligent, show friends their sympathy, as well as show utmost respect for their elders and all teachers. We will reinforce and expect these skills and to be used in our school setting.
- Home is where they learn to be clean, not talk with their mouths full, and how/where to properly dispose of garbage. We will expect and encourage our students to self care and become independent with these skills.
- Home is also where they learn to be organized, to take good care of their belongings, and that it's not ok to touch others. At school we will reinforce personal organization and appropriate peer interaction and conduct.
- Additionally, here at school, we teach language, math, history, geography, physics, sciences, and physical education and we reinforce character education. We will partner with you and reinforce good manners and common courtesies.

I share this information with you Explorer parents so that we can continue to make significant improvements with our school student conduct and our strengthening our school culture of high student academic achievement.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your child specifically, please call the school and request a conference with your assigned administrator (K-2: AP Anderson and 3-5: AP Coby). We would very much like to be a part of proactive relationship building and setting your child up for success here at EGES!

Thank you,

Mrs. Graf and the Whole Child School Improvement Committee