



Murphy's Mingle

In a Minute...

Today we discussed...Technology and Social Media

- Mrs. Murphy explained the professional development of RSPS teachers on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday of each week. She gave the example of "Tech Tuesday" yesterday. Mrs. Carpenter gave a presentation on the ISTE conference she attended over the summer.
- The school will pay for teachers to attend conferences, however, they must come back and present to the faculty what they learned, which tracks were helpful or which ones were not a good resource.
- Faculty also has professional development readings. One of the articles, "The Role of Mistakes in the Classroom" given to teachers last week was distributed and a point of discussion. To view it, click here: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/benefits-mistakes-classroom-alina-tugend>.
- In alignment with the article above, Mrs. Murphy told the group the Faculty and Staff received an email from Mrs. Suarez this morning explaining the nurses are seeing 2-3 children daily because of high anxiety. The children report that they want to do well at RSPS and want to please their parents.
- Mrs. Murphy pointed out a specific section in the article where we are raising a generation of children that are terrified of making mistakes.
- She gave the example of "Invention Day" that took place in second grade last year. Students were told to invent something based out of a need they must identify. After the lesson was over, students were asked what they learned. They gave answers like, "I learned I don't work well in a group, I'd rather do it by myself" and "I learned I can invent anything. It may take me years to do it, but I can do it."
- From the example above, Mrs. Murphy explained Ms. Frederick and Ms. Hoeck allowed the students to fail. They had to apply critical thinking skills to the lesson. This is an example of a student-driven vs. teacher-driven classroom and STEM integration.
- Mrs. Murphy mentioned the findings from standardized tests that our students had difficulty answering a question, "Answer Not Given". We need to empower our children to have confidence in their own skills and not to second guess themselves.
- Mrs. Murphy also said that as parents, we need to let our children solve their own problems. She suggested letting the children sit to think about the answer because eventually, they will get it.
- She referenced the article again, pointing out the psychology of the language we use with children. In one study, 400 students were given a test. Half were praised for "being smart" the other half were praised for "working hard". Those students were asked if they wanted their next test to be pretty simple and they'd do well on it or more challenging and they may make mistakes. Students praised for effort chose the harder test. Students praised for being smart chose the easier test because of the fear of failure.
- Mrs. Cottrell explained the transition of being a teacher-centered classroom to a student-centered classroom. Teachers still have goals and curriculum guidelines to follow, however, students are being given the power to learn the way they want to learn and the way they learn the best. We are entering an inquiry based environment.
- The floor was opened up for questions. The first was on scheduling in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell explained the breakdown of time allotted for each subject.
- Another question was on proper hand hygiene after recess and before lunch. *If any parent volunteers would like to come in to hand out wipes and/or squirt their hands with hand sanitizer, please volunteer! We simply do not have the man power to do it. Other suggestions were to pack wipes in your child's lunch or give them a hand sanitizer they can carry with them. We could also put wipes on each table, but parents may need to reinforce the effort at home.
- Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell are trying to pass out 3-4 Panther Pride stickers a day. They would like to send an email to the parents of those children to let them know why they got the sticker.
- Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell also mentioned the change in the disciplinary policy i.e. point system. Please see last week's newsletter for those changes.
- We are working toward consistency in discipline across the school. Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell said we don't really have severe behavioral problems because of the values code. Please continue to reinforce those values at home.