



SOAR to new heights at Botelle School ~ Show self-control, Offer kindness & respect, Achieve your goals & be Ready to learn!

November 1, 2024 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES



11/4	PTO Meeting - Cafeteria - 6:00PM
11/5	No School - Teacher PD
11/11	Veterans' Day Assembly - 10:30AM
11/12	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00PM - #211
11/15	Marking Period Ends
11/22	Progress Reports Sent Home
11/25	Early Dismissal - 1:00PM - Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/26	Early Dismissal - 1:00PM - Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/27 - 11/29	Thanksgiving Break
12/3	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00PM - #211

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On Monday, November 11th we will be holding our annual Veterans Day Assembly at 10:30AM. If you or any of your family are veterans and would like to be included in this annual event please notify Mrs. Lasko in the office.

Please mark your calendars with this special date, so that you will be able to attend. Invite any family members that would like to attend. All Botelle children will be participating in this program, honoring our veterans who have served and continue to serve our Country. We hope you will join us.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A **Safe** and positive school climate is essential for learning. The National Center for Safe and Supportive Learning Environments defines a positive school climate as "the product of a school's attention to fostering safety; promoting a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment; and encouraging and maintaining respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community." School climate has many components and safety is one of them.

Feeling **Safe** at school is so important, that when our students, families and staff created our School Charter, which identifies how we want to feel at school, **Safe** was near the top of the list of emotions. Botelle's School Charter says, **At Botelle School, we deserve to feel...**

Happy, Safe, Welcomed, Confident, Excited, and Loved!

What does safe mean? RULER, our social-emotional learning approach, defines safe as "feeling protected from anything bad or scary."

Every year, we anonymously survey our students, families and staff about our school climate. We ask questions that help us determine if our school feels safe. Last year, 100% of our staff agreed with the statement, "I feel safe at this school." 95% of families agreed with a similar statement, "This school is a safe place for my child." But how do our students feel? See what some of them said below in response to the questions, "Do you feel safe at school?" and "Can you think of one thing that makes you feel safe?"

Elana H. "Yes. When you greet me in the morning."

Michael P. "Yes, most of the time. I feel safe in music because of Mrs. Krusch."

Abby B. "Yes, most of the time. I feel safe sharing something personal with a friend."

Charlie K. "Yes. My teacher is here to protect me."

Rowan R. "Yes. I feel safe when we practice if something goes wrong. Like an emergency."

Charlie T. "Yes. I feel safe when my friends are with me."

Are there times when students do not feel safe at school? Of course. Children are learning prosocial behaviors and developing independence. There are bound to be times when a child feels unsafe. When asked when they feel unsafe at school, our youngest students said stormy weather makes them feel unsafe because they are afraid of thunder and lightning. Some feel unsafe in the bathroom because the toilets flush automatically, it's loud and surprises them.

Our older students were concerned that some of their classmates may feel unsafe. They notice if someone is being unkind to others. It can be easy to label someone as "weird" or "annoying" but it is important to recognize that sometimes it is difficult to know what another student might be feeling or have gone through. We discussed that something that feels unsafe to one student may not bother another student. We are each individuals and respond differently to the same situation. The good thing is that at our "Small School with a BIG Heart," our students feel like there are adults at school they have trusting relationships with. They feel comfortable asking for help. Our families agree. In response to the survey question, "If my child has a problem, there is someone at school who can help," 95% of them agreed. It's everyone's job to contribute to a positive, safe school climate - students, staff, families, and the Norfolk community. It's the foundation for learning!