



Train your student leaders

Your student leaders can be found across your campus doing a variety of things and wearing many different hats. Find these leaders and train them.



Provide your leaders a voice in their school

This will create a connection, sense of ownership, commitment and investment. Your students will feel a part of your team; it will foster a feeling of US with no THEM.



Unite your campus by providing common experiences

This will give your students a universal language whether it is a homecoming rally, motivational speaker or a program like Teen Truth— an all-school activity will help build community and improve your school's climate.



Create pride and spirit

When this is done on your campus by providing activities for your students that are rich in tradition (even if they require a new, improved twist).



Promote achievement

Make sure to include all the kinds of achievement on your campus. Through your focus on the behaviors you want to have more of. Tangible rewards need to be part of your focus.



Offer positive social opportunities

Education beyond the classroom creates well-rounded students who are connected to their school. Find positive social activities and safe and healthy alternatives that will help you provide an opportunity for your students to grow and develop socially and mentally. This would include dances, rallies, noontime activities, clubs, performing arts, cheering sections at athletic events, rallies and noontime activities.

Encourage a culture of service



There is nothing better for self-esteem than doing something for someone else. And it could be argued that a student body with high self-esteem will be a student body with good attendance, behavior and grades. Besides that we want our students to leave high school and continue to give to others—our communities are counting on us

Concentrate on Character Education



School qualities that build character include such things as: connectedness, opportunities for students to reflect, debate, and collaborate, social skills training, the opportunity to engage in moral behavior (community service). All of these components are naturally embedded in a strong activities program. However Character Education itself is an important piece of the puzzle and it warrants mentioning as component part of addressing climate and culture.

Communicate Clearly



It is imperative that the administration provide a venue for activities directors to report to the staff—time at the staff meeting, bulletin space, all-school email capability...all work. Student leaders need to understand the importance of communication—both in the form of advertising as well as the unspoken messages they are giving their peers.



Honor Diversity

It is our differences that make us more interesting and more powerful. Help your students to appreciate one another's cultures, abilities (and disabilities) hobbies and interests. Diversity goes well beyond cultural diversity.



Create Connections

Students who are connected to their school have higher grades, test scores, attendance and fewer discipline problems. Connectedness is a protective factor for limiting high risk behaviors. Find a way to connect every student in your school and watch what happens to your climate and culture (and achievement and attendance).