

Tac Titooqan Article October 2016

Lapwai School District Approach to Bullying:

The Lapwai School District is currently implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S). P.B.I.S. is a best-practice framework for improving academic and behavioral outcomes for all students. The purpose of this program is to increase academic time-on-task by reducing problem behaviors. The students are explicitly taught how to be respectful, responsible, and safe in all locations on the school grounds. Our goal with PBIS and bully prevention is to create a safe learning environment to maximize learning for all students. The elementary is also implementing the P.A.T.H.S. curriculum (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies), which encourages the development of strong social skills, problem solving, positive character traits, and bullying prevention, all which support academics. These research-based tools for teachers minimize learning interruptions and prevent bullying and other behaviors with strategic procedures and prevention techniques.

The role of parents is critical in bullying prevention. When a child reports bullying, it is crucial to report it to the school immediately. Bullying is not accepted in our schools. Our zero tolerance approach to bullying can lead to serious consequences ranging from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension, expulsion, and police involvement. Students are encouraged to prevent bullying by refusing to join in, refusing to watch, standing up for the person being bullied, being a friend to a person being bullied, or getting help from an adult. Elementary students can earn a Bully Prevention Hero trophy by helping to prevent bullying. Middle-high students are also recognized during quarterly award assemblies for good citizenship. Together, we ensure all students will reach their full potential.

GEAR UP: Lapwai High School

Lapwai School District's focus is to have our students prepared and ready for post-secondary life. GEAR UP is a grant funded initiative helping the district to achieve that goal. GEAR UP coordinator, Candace Hoisington, works closely with Josh Nellesen, Academic Counselor, and with other high school staff to provide opportunities for Lapwai students.

GEAR UP Idaho holds a Youth Leadership Summit each June at different colleges around the state. GEAR UP students spending a week in June at Boise State University for the Youth Leadership Summit were Evelyn Bohnee and Kiara Smith. They were enthusiastic about the week and Evelyn said, "The Gear-Up Youth Summit this summer was an experience of a life time. I met life-long friends, got to tour great colleges, and experience college life. I gained lots of knowledge about my career interests. I am glad my GEAR UP counselors were able to send me on this trip. I enjoyed this trip and would like to do more trips like this." Kiara reported, "The GEAR UP Youth Summit was an awesome and fun experience. I enjoyed every minute of it including touring the college, making new friends, staying in the dorm, and careers classes. I am thankful for this opportunity. I would love to go on another trip like this."

This year GEAR UP Math Interventionist, Brett Bovard, will be providing one-on-one and group support to our students. The goal is to identify individual student's areas of need in Math and help students meet graduation requirements.

GEAR UP serves this year's juniors and seniors and has been following them through their high school career.

In addition to other opportunities provided by GEAR UP, scholarship money is available to every GEAR UP student for up to four years of post-secondary education.

Please feel free to contact Candace Hoisington at choisington@lapwai.org with any questions you might have about the program.