# Mt. Comfort Elementary

#### The Life of a Behavior Technician

A wise person once said "You can only appreciate the highest of highs if you experience the lowest of lows."





#### Reactive

- Answer text, radio calls, and phone calls for assistance. Read the situation so we know how to respond.
- Firm expectations with follow through
- We support children where they are, trying to work through whatever is going on
- Provide choices to students when they cannot communicate.
  - Give time to process
  - Offer breaks
  - o Offer a safe workplace
- Sit with students when they get "stuck" to help them complete a task with a calm presence
- Review the situation that may have caused the behavior, complete work or repair any damage done. We then suggest what could be done differently the next time.
- Sensory room break (if more severe)
  - time to work through what they are feeling
  - o calming choices to use
  - check for regulation and compliance before introducing the student back into the classroom.
- Sounding board for the staff to help them work through the moment,

#### PROACTIVE

- Building relationships with staff and students
- Making plans for when the student/teacher is dysregulated
- Using CICO and providing positive incentives with clear expectations on how to receive them
- Provide teachers with ides and supports for them to find success with their students
- Create visuals, schedules and setting up task systems for students
- Implementing Skill Groups
- Providing Scheduled Breaks for students
- Creating and maintaining Connections during 4th/5th grade lunch.
- Greet students off of the the bus in the morning so they have a positive interaction when the walk into the building
- Reminding students of expectations with the hope they stay fresh in their minds when presented with a challenging situation
- Meet with each teacher to determine what's working, what's not working, and we can get better
- Meeting with Admin weekly to review the data and update plans

#### Data

#### 29 Classroom Teachers

BTs have been called to 21/29 rooms for support (reactive) 72%

BTs have been asked to plan and support in 12/29 rooms (proactive) 41%

Our staff has a wealth of knowledge that can help support our strongest needs. We have developed a SMART goal to create a database of positive proactive strategies that have been proven to be effective by our staff in their careers.

This database will help provide all teachers with more strategies that have been effective if they are struggling.

#### 2023-2024 Goal (Behavior Techs)

S 75% of classroom teachers will voluntarily meet with **SPECIFIC** our BTs and share positive behavioral strategies for MCE to collect and create a database. Behavior Techs will offer chances to meet with **MEASURABLE** teachers to share and collect data. (weekly scoreboard of teachers data was collected from) 21-22 teachers would need to share strategies-Our **ATTAINABLE** techs would need to meet with an average of 2 teachers a week during the next quarter. This data will help us build a warehouse of ideas that RELEVANT have proven to work for colleagues. Review Data at the end of Quarter 2 to build the data TIMFLY warehouse

Last year, MCE began working towards a Tier 2 approach for our kiddos that tend to struggle regulating their emotions. This year, our behavior techs have been able to identify and implement a more concrete approach through daily check-ins, groups, and a "BUCS Club" to help increase overall student success. The connections that have been built through these daily check-ins are clearly making a positive impact on our students. I can only imagine the effect this will have when teachers have the opportunity to utilize these same strategies in the classroom as well. Group preparation has been in the works, and I am excited to hear about the progress our students will have made by the time groups have begun. Not only do the groups provide the students with a safe space to learn new skills, they are able to form new relationships with one another, in addition to the behavior techs. "BUCS Club" is new to MCE this year, however the behavior techs have been tirelessly working towards the best way to incentivize this program by tailoring it to our students' needs and interests.

I can always go to our Behavior Techs and ask for support and help and they come up with ideas that are easy and quick to implement. The time that it takes me to use their ideas within the classroom is 100% worth the time it takes because in the long run I'm able to provide instruction more because the behaviors are manageable and students are learning!

The new BUCS system that Tonya Brown has designed and then helped me implement with a student has been exactly what was needed. The improvements we've seen since using this behavior system are phenomenal. We've broken down his day into very small segments and we recognize his successes for each part of the day. He can earn 8 points for each part by achieving his goals for BUCS - Bright, Understanding, Courteous, Success. This particular student can see his successes each day and knows it's possible. He's learning social skills and working on managing his emotions so he can be more successful. When he doesn't earn all his points he knows that the next chunk of his day can improve because his points are not gone for the entire day, just for that small amount of time.

I believe that the behavior techs are a vital asset to our school. I have utilized them more times than I can count! Their dedication, rapport, and guidance they give our students, is what keeps my classroom moving! There are times when we do not have admin in the building to support. There are students in the building who do not qualify for an IEP with those services, meaning we NEED help for those students to help them be successful. The behavior techs do just that! At times, the students with IEP are dysregulated and the resource staff is already assisting other students, so the behavior techs respond.

I know and believe that if it were not for the behavior techs in my building, I would not see the success I do in one of my students. Today this student was physical and destructive, with the help of the behavior techs, I was able to continue teaching my class while she supported that student within the classroom, so he could recover, regulate, and have a successful day. He had a great day, because she was able to help support us ALL, not just the student who was dysregulated. At other times, I have had them take over the class, so I can meet with the dysregulated student and continue to build my rapport with him.

These individuals are crucial to helping our students succeed!

After using the BUCS program for a number of weeks I see great value in tracking the data of when behaviors arise, allowing us to find and navigate possible triggers.

Although we are still facing challenges, MCE is definitely moving in the right direction! Our behavior techs do an unbelievable job of putting out fires, but their dedication to prevent them is even more appreciated!

I wanted to take some time to write a note of gratitude for the work that Tonya Brown and Julia Nelson have done for Mt. Comfort Elementary. It is very comforting knowing that there are specialists in the building that will assist me and others when needed. There are times where whatever I try to do just won't work and I have witnessed Tonya and Julia come to my room and just know what each student needs. I have also observed them working with students in the hallway in developing successful school behaviors.

Both Tonya and Julia do these things while maintaining respect and love for the students. They manage to be both nurturing and instructional. We are so very lucky to have them here!

Our behavior techs (Tonya Brown and Julia Nelson) have been huge assets here at Mt. Comfort Elementary. I have been able to see their work in action and have asked their advice on a number of topics many times. Each time I come to talk to them, they listen and give me helpful advice or something to try. They tailor each student's behavior check in sheet to that child's interests, along with positive incentives that the student is working towards. They have made such a tremendous impact on both the students and the teachers. Teachers are not feeling as overwhelmed and alone with behaviors. Individual students are benefiting along with the rest of the class. Teachers have a great resource, our behavior techs, that they can reach out to and get assistance from. We are so thankful to have them in our building!



# BRIGHT \* UNDERSTANDING \* COURTEOUS \* SUCCESSFUL

