

2013 Ceremony Networking Session: Transcript: *Student Supports and Relationships* (5:38)



Dolly Harth Parker, Lakenheath Middle School, Department of Defense Education Activity. I'm Dolly Harth Parker. I'm from Lakenheath Middle School in England and I'm another Department of Defense teacher. Our best practice is, we're a middle school and we have more than 600 kids. However, we're split into houses, or teams, so that 90 kids have the same Language Arts, [same] science, [same] social studies, [same] math teacher. So that means 90 kids have four advocates for them and always can follow up on them. So they don't get lost in the 600 kids in the school. It's actually 90 kids in your school. And it really is powerful when the kids know that they have advocates, and know these advocates are going to get on them and make them do what they need to do.

Kurt Simon, Principal, West Side Elementary School, Cold Springs Harbor, NY. Good morning, everyone. My name is Kurt Simon and I'm the principal of West Side Elementary School in Cold Springs Harbor, New York. And one thing that I do in my school—my building is grades two through six—is, before the year's over, I make sure I have lunch with every kid in the school. Because with everything that's going on in education, and all the changes, and all these great things, it's the voice of the kids that has to be there. They need to feel empowered; they need to feel that somehow, that they can be decision-makers within the school. And working with teachers and administrators in our building, I think the kids do feel that they have a voice. But sometimes something as simple as having lunch with them and asking them, "What do you think?" really makes them feel that they have that special seat at the table and it's something that's worked in our school. And it's something I started in my first year just to get to know the kids, and you know, it's something I will do as long as I am a principal because I truly believe that.

Doug Smith, Principal, Ord Elementary School, Ord, NE. Good morning. My name is Doug Smith. I'm the principal of Ord Elementary School in Ord, Nebraska. It's a very rural setting with about 150 kindergarten through grade 6 students. One thing that makes us unique, I think, is the fact that we don't have walls in our school, and so we are an open

2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools Annual Ceremony

teaching environment, built in the 70s, which was popular then, but I think what that does for us, is it fosters an environment of collaboration between our teachers, because every room is open to every teacher. And it also fosters relationships between students and teachers because everybody knows everybody. We're small enough to know everybody. At the same time there's no walls separating us from everybody so we can't help but share our classroom experiences as you're walking around the school. It's just the way it is, so—unique, no walls, but just like so many of you have said, it all comes to the relationships that we build with those students. And no walls offers that in our setting.

Patricia Griffin, Principal, St. Jude's School, Monroe, CT. I'm Pat Griffin. I am the principal of St. Jude's School in Monroe, Connecticut, a small but mighty Catholic school, and I wanted to tell you a little bit about what we did to build community in my school. Our book buddy program, which develops community relationships among my kids with one another. We are pre-K through grade 8; I feel that the book buddy program sensitizes and helps my older students become mentors in my building and my younger students want to be like those students, and hopefully they related good characteristics when they finish. The other thing that we do... I believe in the capability of our students—from pre-K three up, and so we develop leadership through Student Council, through putting representatives from the early grades on my Student Council, so that they can go back and report out to their classrooms. It doesn't start in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade; it starts with little people, and as we know, little people are very capable.

Joey Jones, Principal, Robert Frost Middle School, Rockville, MD. Good morning. My name is Joey Jones, the principal of Robert Frost Middle School in Rockville, Maryland, about 45 minutes from here. I always tell my students they are some of the best students on the planet. Even when I have to give them a consequence, when they come back about two or three days later, I find them, and I say, "You know what, you're *still* one of the best students on the planet." I told that to a student recently, and he said, "You talking about me?" I said, "Of course." I said, "Do you believe that?" He said, "I don't know." I said, "Let me tell it to you again: You're one of the best students on the planet! Do you believe that?" "Yeah, I believe it now." And so I think it's important to give students positive messages as part of their social emotional learning. You know, the academics will get a person a job, but the social emotional learning will help them to maintain it.

Erlene Santiago, John Yehall Chin Elementary School, San Francisco, CA. Good morning. My name is Erlene Santiago, I'm a 4th grade teacher at John Yehall Chin Elementary School. Most of our students are English Language Learners. And when I think of what are we doing—our district comes up with a curriculum, our state, and of course now our federal

government. We not only teach the curriculum, but we supplement it. We have to, because many of our children do not have the language, they do not have the words. So we spend an awful lot of time not only just implementing the curriculum but seeking and using supplemental curriculum. We also have an afterschool program called Excel, where many of our students who are new to our country attend for maybe an hour and half or two where the mentors are also speakers of the language that our children speak, which is mainly either Cantonese or Mandarin, which is a big, big asset.



Lakenheath Middle School – APO, DD

Award Year 2013

Lakenheath Middle School

DoDDS CCSM Unit 5185 Box

APO, DD 09461-5555

Phone: (571) 372-6006

Mary Zimmerman-Bayer,
Principal

528 Students, Grades: 6 – 8

Public School

[School Website](#)

Isles District

Lakenheath Middle School (LMS), a Department of Defense Dependents School, serves 540 children of U.S. Air Force and civilian contractors. LMS's purpose is Learn, Motivate, and Succeed and is obvious when you walk through the door to see a gallery of student work, respectful and happy students, parents and community members supporting students and programs, and highly-qualified staff.

LMS is unique because of the synergistic combination of talents, dedication, expertise, positive energy, and intellectual investment that blend into every single day of learning. Teachers, parents, students, and community members consistently orchestrate lessons, activities, simulations, study trips, demonstrations, projects, experiments, and exploration. There is a special open-minded "we can do it" attitude that focuses on problem solving and challenges in their community of learners. There is a sense of deliberate academic adventure, discovery, purpose, and freedom to experiment in a nurturing, safe learning environment. Lessons go beyond the walls of the school and the courtyard and throughout the Lakenheath base and community.

LMS embodies the concept, "It takes a village to raise a child." To that end, LMS encourages the community to view the educational system as part of their extended family. Their community ties and involvement are evident through over 40 school partnerships with outside agencies and tremendous parent support.

LMS provides a caring learning environment where all students are free to explore and expand their talents in a middle school.

Accountability, differentiation, creativity, literacy, continuous student

Mission

The mission of Lakenheath Middle School is to educate, engage, and empower each student to succeed in a dynamic world.

Student Demographics

- » Black/African American: **13%**
- » White/Caucasian: **59%**
- » Hispanic: **14%**
- » Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:

1%

- » Asian: 4%
- » Native American: 1%
- » Other: 9%
- » ELL: 3%
- » Economically Disadvantaged: 33%

improvement, and relentless support are included in professional dialogues and daily actions.

At Lakenheath Middle School all Learn, all are Motivated, and all Succeed!

Download



Print Summary Full Application



Lakenheath Middle School offers multiple opportunities for students to develop their minds and character. LMS: Learn, Motivate, Succeed!

This website has been funded, at least in part, with Federal Funds from the U.S. Department of Education under contract number ED-OCO-11-O-0085. The content of this website does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

[Home](#) ~ [Contact Us](#) ~ [Privacy Policy](#) ~ [RSS Feed](#)

© RMC Research Corp

