



Building Character and Knowledge in Middle School: Day Creek Intermediate School Video Reflection Guide

This video introduces Day Creek Intermediate School's PACK (Personally Achieving Character and Knowledge) program, including perspectives from students, teachers, and school leaders. For educators interested in applying lessons learned from the video to their district or school context, this accompanying reflection guide offers questions to consider after watching the video, as well as some additional resources.

Engaging all Adults in Building Community

'It's very important to make sure that every kid feels like they're a part of the Day Creek family... And the only way to do that when you have a large school is to empower your teachers and every staff on your campus ... to make sure that they make a connection with as many students as they can ... Whether using PE teachers, custodians, campus support, instructional aids, every aspect.' - David Apodaca, Principal

- How are all adults in your school or district community empowered to make connections with students?
- What unique perspectives might non-instructional staff have to offer students, and why are their contributions valuable?

Designing Classes to Meet Students Needs

'[PACK is] the only class that is based on how well you do in academics. So, let's just say maybe if you're struggling in math, then you'll be placed in a lower PACK class. However, that isn't a bad thing because PACK classes are specially designed for you and your needs.' - Andy, 8th Grade Student

- When using a flexible, tiered system of intervention grouping, how can educators help 'struggling' students take a positive view of the supports designed to meet their needs?
- What strategies have you found or seen to be successful in terms of making students active participants in identifying their learning goals, tracking their progress, and celebrating their achievements?

Considering Middle School Narratives

"I think there's this idea out there that middle school kids are hard to get along with. And, I'm here to tell you that that's just not the case. They all come with their own unique set of struggles, but when it comes right down to it, they're just developing people like all of us." - Kenny Evans, Teacher

- Have you heard negative narratives about middle school students in your school or district context? What be at the root of such perceptions?
- What are some changes in mind-set or practices that educators can make to help address the real or perceived challenges of supporting middle school students?

Additional Resources

[Day Creek Intermediate School](#) - Learn more about Day Creek Intermediate School and how they implement their PACK program.

[National Blue Ribbon Schools: Middle School Practices](#) - Learn more about effective practices at the middle school level from other National Blue Ribbon Schools.