

Share with colleagues and then commit to making at least three changes in your practice.



What Does it Look Like When Teachers Foster Heroes?

- Teachers talk in a positive manner about students.
- Teachers hold high expectations for all students.
- Students respect teachers and their classmates.
- Students feel listened to and acknowledged for their unique skills and talents.
- Students trust their teachers.
- Students appreciate each other's differences.
- Teachers value students' ideas and opinions.
- Teachers let students know they care about them as individuals.
- Students work collaboratively and support each other.

Classroom Practices Related to Heroes

- Give daily words of encouragement.
- Recognize Heroes in the school community.
- Listen to students.
- Take the role as a Hero seriously.
- Help develop mentoring programs for students at school.
- Show students respect; let them know you value them as individuals.
- Attend after-school events that your students are involved in.
- Take the time to ask students how they are doing.
- Be fair and consistent with all students.
- Talk with students about their hopes and dreams.
- Teach students to work collaboratively.

Leader's Role in Promoting Heroes for Students

- Support mentoring programs in your school.
- Smile and interact with students in the hallways.
- Play and hang out with students at recess and lunch.
- Attend after-school events and activities that students are involved in.
- Include students on schoolwide committees.
- Take the time to visit classrooms and teach a lesson.
- Make positive calls to parents.
- Send notes of encouragement to students.
- Remember what it was like to be a student.
- Give each student a fresh start each year/semester/week/day.
- Provide a variety of school activities and clubs that appeal to the unique interests of students.
- Share information about your Heroes with students.
- Invite former graduates to your school to share their successes.
- Show students respect in a manner that is meaningful to them.
- Invite members of the local community into the school regularly to share how they have had a positive impact on the community.

Developing Strategies and Tactics

To enhance Heroes in your classroom, respond to the following prompts, then act.

1. To show students I care about their success, I will . . .
2. To better serve as a role model for students, I will . . .
3. To show students I care about their problems and feelings, I will . . .
4. To encourage students to be Heroes to each other, I will . . .
5. To celebrate my colleagues as Heroes to students at our school, I will . . .
6. To support students' hopes, dreams, and aspirations schoolwide, I will . . .
7. To help students recognize the everyday Heroes in their families, I will . . .
8. To help students recognize the everyday Heroes in their communities, I will . . .

