

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE: TAKING ACTION

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



What Does it Look Like When Teachers Foster Spirit of Adventure?

- Teachers know how to help students take healthy risks.
- All students strive to be successful.
- Students are not afraid to fail or succeed.
- Teachers model healthy risk-taking behavior.
- Students understand the importance of goal setting.
- Students are eager to take on new challenges.
- Teachers construct lessons with student input.
- Healthy risk taking is acknowledged and celebrated.

Best Classroom Practices Related to Spirit of Adventure

- Teach “stretch” goal-setting skills to all students.
- Support students whether they succeed or fail.
- Teach students to be reflective about their failures and successes.
- Help students develop the courage to explore new opportunities.
- Create a safe atmosphere for students to take risks in front of peers.
- Ensure that all students are challenged at school.
- Understand student fears around healthy risk taking.
- Push students to demand more of themselves.
- Create class goals together.
- Celebrate effort and goal attainment throughout the year.

Administrator’s Role in Promoting Spirit of Adventure for Students

- Share your professional goals with students.
- Allow students to know your failures and how you persevere in difficult times.
- Celebrate the effort of students who work to be successful.
- Understand and acknowledge that success comes in many forms.
- Ensure that school is appropriately challenging for all students.
- Expect your students to set high goals.
- Ask students about their goals and how they plan to reach those goals.
- Encourage students who graduate to share their failures and successes with current students.
- Share building and district goals with students.
- Help students strive to be the best they can be.
- Create a climate that supports healthy risk-taking behaviors.
- Truly believe in the potential of all the students in your building.

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Developing Strategies and Tactics

To enhance Spirit of Adventure in your classroom, respond to the following prompts, then act.

1. To develop lessons that are challenging to all learners, I will . . .
2. To model learning from failure, I will . . .
3. To help students to better see the value in learning from their mistakes, I will . . .
4. To show that I have high expectations for all my students, I will . . .
5. To encourage students to feel great about their successes, I will . . .
6. To change the assessment rubrics in my department/grade level to promote the idea that failure is an opportunity to learn, I will . . .
7. To encourage students to take co-curricular risks, I will . . .
8. To reveal to students the benefits of healthy risk taking in the wider community, I will . . .

