

Mount Miguel High

Grossmont Union HSD | Spring Valley, CA | (619) 667-6400 | mountmiguel.guhsd.net

Subject: Social-Emotional Health, Engagement, Data Use, Discipline Referral Reduction

Practice: Capturing Kids' Hearts

Capturing Kids' Hearts

A three-day all staff training called Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH)

(www.flippengroup.com/education/ckh.html) was attended by 100 of the school's classified, certificated, and administrative staff. The outcomes of this training included:

- Developing safe, trusting, self-managing classrooms
- Improving classroom attendance
- Decreasing delinquent behaviors
- Utilizing the EXCEL Model™ and reinforcing the role of emotional intelligence in teaching
- Developing students' empathy for diverse cultures and backgrounds

Following this training, discipline improved. For the first month of the 2013-14, school year Mount Miguel had 37 discipline referrals compared with 156 discipline referrals for the first month of the 2012-13 year - a very significant difference! The impact of the CKH training on the staff and students was considered to be profound and is summarized well in this letter written by a teacher to the S3 coordinator.

“Thank you for bringing CKH to our school; it has made all the difference in helping me to connect to my students, even those that I have traditionally had trouble reaching. A quick story from yesterday's "break through" in my largest and most challenging class:

I allowed students to share their sentimental item and/or hidden talent. One student chose to play his guitar for the class. Several members of his family play the guitar, and he named his guitar after his girlfriend, so this was both his hidden talent and sentimental item. He was very nervous and was rambling on, but the class stayed patient, then started to become verbally supportive with "you got this" and applause. He began to play, but was so nervous that he stopped. Then a student suggested that we all put our heads down to help the performing student be less nervous. Every student, all 37 of them, put their heads down or turned toward the back of the room, got silent, and listened as the featured student played a beautiful rendition of Hotel California. When he finished, the class turned their heads toward him and gave him a rousing round of applause.

This event will be one of the most memorable of my career, I'm sure. It had nothing to do with the subject, but everything to do with capturing kids' hearts. I'm sure that when we start the curriculum on Monday, we will "hit the road running" because we have developed relationships and trust.”