



What's Love Got to Do With It?

Article and photos by Dr. Amy Alzina, Superintendent/Principal, Cold Spring School

What makes a school successful? This is the question I am frequently asked by parents and community members. When answering it, I can't help but think about the nine fundamental building blocks that serve as the foundation for successful schools: a clear mission and goals for student achievement, alignment to the standards with frequent monitoring and support, creating a safe environment for students and staff, maintaining high expectations for all, collaborating and communicating with all stakeholders, recognizing family and community support as a valuable asset and ensuring adequate support is given to teachers and staff to constantly learn and grow.

Now let's pause... School success is more than a formula or a series of boxes to check. These fundamental building blocks mean nothing without a team of relationship-driven teachers and staff committed to meeting the unique learning needs of every child in and out of the classroom. Behind a successful school are teachers and staff that are committed to learning and growing together as a team. Teachers and staff that aren't afraid to say, "I need help." Teachers and staff that think outside of themselves, and attend their students' birthday parties, sporting events, dance recitals and art showcases on the weekends. Teachers and staff that come together to celebrate a colleague's success, or deliver a hot meal during a time of need. This deep internal love found within Cold Spring School has created a family like atmosphere where each individual is truly loved, valued and respected. The students see this love, too, and it becomes a part of their school experience.

The core reason why the students at Cold Spring School continue to thrive is because they are surrounded by a team of classroom teachers, specialist teachers (Art, Music, PE, STEAM), instructional assistants, support staff and an administrator that truly cares about them as individual people. The students feel loved from the moment they step on campus, as they are greeted with genuine enthusiasm by administration, teachers and support staff. Students know they have at least three champions in their corner wanting them to succeed.

So, what does LOVE have to do with the success of a school? Everything! It is our unconditional love that binds us all together with a central purpose, which is to ensure the success of every child! It is what makes every student and staff member feel safe and unafraid of failure, because they know that failure isn't a dead-end, but only the beginning of a new adventure. There is no limit to what we can accomplish together in our small community when we choose to focus on what's truly important: loving one another!



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