

September 2, 2011

### District-Wide Behavior System

We're off to a great start and we are looking forward to an exciting school year at Big Hollow School. In such a short time our students are establishing daily routines and getting to know their new classmates and teachers.

As soon as school started we began our PBS (Positive Behavior System) initiative. Our system has two major components: a Social Skills program aligned with the Illinois social and emotional learning standards called *Stop and Think*, and Positive Behavior Expectations: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be a Learner. A matrix detailing our Positive Behavior Expectations is in the student handbook and students have been learning these expectations in their grade level teams. The *Stop and Think* social skills will be taught at the Middle School in a new course -Student Everyday Life and in physical education classes at the Elementary and Primary Schools.

To further support and encourage an engaging and respectful learning environment, each building is implementing a character education program. Character Counts is a school-wide program established to promote and teach the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Monthly themes associated with the Six Pillars will be taught and celebrated. Our Social Workers will provide instructional support to teach the character traits. Each school has a recognition system for students who exhibit traits associated with the character education program during school and on the bus.