

Bringing Our School Community Together

At Deane-Porter School, we love spending time together! School-wide meetings were implemented this year as a way our students and staff to get together and discuss topics of importance. Each month two meetings (Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1; Grades 2-3) are held based on our monthly Character Education themes.

These meeting offers an opportunity for our students and staff to share ideas and listen to each others point of views. There is a power in coming together in several grade levels. They are purposeful and fun. One meeting showed a video of **Kid President** sharing his thoughts on ways in which people could be kinder by using phrases such as “please”, “thank you”, and “excuse me” more often . In the video, there were catchy songs to which Kid President showed off his impressive dancing skills while relaying an inspiring message to make the planet a more pleasant place to live. In the word’s of Kid President , "It's everybody's duty to give the world a reason to dance."



In our most recent meeting, our School Counselor, Mrs. Jessica Piernik, read the book, **One** by Kathryn Otoshi to students. Students shared the message they heard in the story: “ Just one person can make a difference”, “Don’t be a bystander”, “Be an upstander”, “Everyone matters”, and “ You can stand up for yourself ”. When the school community hears the same message and understands a collective vision it ripples out into other areas of the school. This can be seen in the classroom, playground, and on the school bus.

At each meeting, students and staff are recognized for their achievements. Following the district mission of #bebold, students and staff are honored for being collaborative, igniting potential socially, emotionally, and/or academically.



The multi grade level meetings are an addition to our daily Morning Meeting in each classroom. Morning Meetings set the tone for the school day by establishing a climate of trust and community. The meetings develop a child’s sense of feeling significant, being heard, as well as encouraging empathy and collaboration. The whole child is recognized supporting the social, emotional, and academic components of learning.

Moving forward, students will be choosing the topics they wish to discuss in the meetings. Second grade STEM students created a suggestion box, which stands outside of Mrs. Piernik’s office. Students will write down and submit ideas they want addressed, allowing them to be active participants.