

Folwell Performing Arts Magnet

2017 PSWE YPE Group Qualitative Research Project



Qualitative Research Question

How do students feel about discipline and behavioral policies at Folwell and are there any changes students feel should be made?

Methods:

- Focus group with 7th and 8th grade students
 - Students were randomly selected
 - Diverse sampling

Questions asked during focus group:

1. If you were the principal, what would you change at Folwell and why?
2. When you think about Folwell, what things are fair, what things are unfair?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of recess?
4. Have you ever been in trouble or had a friend get in trouble? If so, did you think the consequences were fair, why or why not?
5. What types of things do you think students should be suspended for? What types of things should they not be suspended for?
6. According to Folwell's behavior data, most behavioral incidents happen during or right after lunch. What do you think contributes to this?

Conclusions/Observations about behavioral policies and procedures:

- Buddy Rooms don't seem to always work
- Some students just want to be rebellious/cool/try to annoy teacher
- If teachers can't handle what's going on, they call behavior. Students get phone call home and detention.
- Students will try to convince teacher not to call parent by saying parent won't care.
- 8th grade "points system" for trip to Valley Fair is unfair. Students feel behavior should not be tied to earning this trip.
- The way we are graded on homework and tests seems fair.

Recommendations/changes students feel should be made for next year:

- Allow us to wear hoodies. People get kicked out of class a lot for this. Could eliminate some concerns.
- Have all teachers follow same procedures (buddy room example...not every teacher follows it).
- Allow all grades time for recess.
- Establish clear expectations at the beginning of the school year for ALL students
- Allow more out of uniform days as an incentive

Questions???