

## **Michael's Class Meeting Notes - April 18th, 2018**

"So what is happiness? Well, it's family, contentment, love, and the small smiles you get on the bus. It's all of these things and more. Happiness is what you make of it, so go out there and make some of it. It's okay to sometimes need help. I believe in you" - Jaden MG

### **Old Student Written Reflections**

**4/9 - First Thoughts Writing: → How have you been feeling in core class lately? Do you notice a difference for yourself between your time in room 211 and specials? What are your thoughts on how things went down for us as a community in our specials classes last week?**

"When we leave to a special all hell breaks loose. It's really annoying because this situation is hard for you to experience, because when you come in everything changes."

"It is frustrating to watch people who are messing around in specials not take ownership when they are back with the whole class in core."

"I've been feeling annoyed with our class lately, but I also notice a shift within myself. I don't bring as much energy or motivation and just try to get through it."

"It is hard because I feel like 10 of us are negatively impacting the entire class."

"I feel overwhelmed by our class in specials. It is frustrating."

"It is so frustrating and upsetting to get in trouble at school with our class every single day... It builds up"

"I have been really stressed out and I have behaved way worse in specials lately. I'm probably one of the main reasons we have been getting in trouble during specials."

"I'm trying to be more aware of my actions in specials and how my actions impact other people."

"I feel like I have been sorta vacant in specials. I half-way think I should work on wrangling other kids who are goofing off and half-way think I shouldn't have to do that. Kids should wrangle and take care of themselves."

"I feel like we have a lot to work on during specials. But I also feel like after a really bad special, other somewhat ok specials are exaggerated so they look worse than they are, but don't get me wrong, we need to work on how we are in special and with subs."

"It is disappointing when we are so rude and disrespectful to teachers, no matter who they are."

"It bothers me when the whole class gets punished for just a few people's actions"

"Core has been boring because we aren't doing anything new and maybe that is why we are so crazy in specials, because we have too much energy."

### **4/18 - Class Meeting Discussion**

## What is working in our community?

- Many students are contributing in class discussions (like this morning when we talked about intentional seating)
- We work well together like last Thursday on our field study to the farm when we were on the bus
- Community is strong — we functioned well in our random groups we were just in when we had conversations
- We all connect and are positive especially when we are in groups
- We are good on field studies like Beacon Rock when we all helped each other get through and be together
- We have done a good job recognizing our behaviors and our struggles in other settings... taking some ownership has been nice
- Open dialogue → like in our class meeting... we weren't afraid to contradict our teacher in a class discussions
- We know each other well in our class... in our groups we could talk to each other without spending time focusing on wanting to move to be with our friends
- We can stay engaged... like when we aren't on field studies and we stay in the same spot in a class meeting for hours we are still engaged
- Group conversations... we can share multiple perspectives even if it isn't the most popular idea or what the majority of folks are saying
- Class meetings often end of with different sides or perspectives though sometimes it can get competitive which can pollute the class meeting
- We hold space in class meeting even though sometimes we get in trouble in morning meeting
- Taking ownership (like when we don't leave snack and chromebooks out all over the place)... this might not seem like it, but this is actually a really hard skill to learn
- RESPECT (sometimes only for certain teachers though...)
- Transitions in core (from class meetings to actual core)... our class meetings actually make core class better... it feels good to be heard
- Powerful to speak when you are heard by all ... I can feel our engagement
- It is easy to talk about stuff in class meeting, and we actually follow through and try to change it
- How positive we are to each other in this community. We have respect for one another in this room... us being so close can actually get in the way sometimes for specials teachers... we can forget how to include others, even teachers (like with specials)... it can be hard if we get out of control
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## What are our challenges as a community?

- Talking
  - Side conversations in science when Sarah is talking for example
- Too much craziness sometimes
  - Olaf the balloon that was doing fine until he was attacked (just like Arnold) and it actually made me kind of sad... balloons should be able to chill without being attacked
    - Oscar → I want to own that (I helped Olaf who wasn't doing too good)
    - Dakota → I sniped Olaf with a pencil by accident
    - Emmet → I want to take onwership. I am sorry.

- Samson → ownership
- Taking things too far... let a joke go... don't milk it too much
  - We can have a hard time bringing ourselves back in when we get goofy.
- Specials class... specifically science because I feel like we do the worst in it even though I don't know why ... sometimes we talk too much in our activity. We are allowed to talk but then it is hard to not get out of control and sometimes we can't come back from that
  - Science might be too easy... we don't have to listen that much in class and we should be able to manage it and I (Adrian) need to own that I can do better during the limited time they are talking... we can do better during this time
    - Especially in science, but in other spaces, our side conversations can build up to the point where we can't even come back when a teacher asks for our attention and then it gets out of control
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- We can get side-tracked by small things and it can get bigger and bigger and out of control
  - We can lose it as a class sometimes and it is hard to come back when that happens
    - I give up sometimes because I've asked someone to be quiet and they just tell me to be quiet
- It can be hard to try and get our class back... people ignore me and it keeps getting louder and louder ... I feel like I want to help but it feels like one person vs. 20
- We can get carried away and more people get involved and no one checks themselves... we should stop abusing things that aren't broken
- PE → We aren't awful, but we have work to do in it... 5 minutes of directions before a fun game shouldn't be so hard... it doesn't even take that long
- Our self-ownership