



Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) at Milford Central School **PK-5**

<https://www.pbis.org/>



- **What is PBIS?**

- **PBIS** is a way to promote positive behavior by teaching desired behaviors in order to prevent bad behaviors instead of always focusing on the negative aspect of punishing undesired behaviors.
- Our school uses the acronym of **PAWS** to reinforce positive behaviors. **PAWS** stands for:
 - **P**repared
 - **A**lways Kind
 - **W**ork responsibly
 - **S**tay safe
- We are expanding our Purple Paws system that is already in place to incorporate these into our PBIS plan
 - Students have the opportunity to earn Purple Paws from the moment they step on the bus in the morning to joining CROP after school.
 - Purple Paws can be used in the school store as currency to earn rewards for their **PAWS-itive** behaviors. The PBIS Store will be in Mrs. Henry's room.

- **Why are we doing it?**

- Implementing **PBIS** creates consistent behavioral expectations across all classrooms, buses, and school settings.
- We feel we can greatly improve our discipline by offering a more positive approach to discipline—through explicitly teaching behavior expectations to everyone throughout the building.

- **Can you give me an example of what you're talking about?**

- Let's take the hallways for example. Everyone in **PK-5th grade** will be taught the expected behaviors to display while in the hallways. Teachers and staff will teach each aspect of the behavior and will be going over these in the first weeks of school. Students will also practice these skills so they know exactly what each looks like and what each sounds like. Using the example of the hallway, the expected behaviors we are asking students to display are to:
 - **Walk on the right side of the hallway.** Why? Imagine you are in kindergarten and you have been called to the office. You round the corner and you see 4 or 5 big brawny 5th graders on their way to the gym walking shoulder-to-shoulder, side by side. That could be a bit intimidating to the kindergarten student, don't you think? We're asking students to walk on the right side of the hallways so we can allow other classes to go in the other direction on their right side of the hallway. It's the same as driving on the highway for you and me. This allows classes to pass in the hallway without fear of anyone being stepped on or feeling intimidated.
 - **Use quiet voices in the hallway.** Why? Because even though the 5th grade may be going to the cafeteria, the 3rd grade classes are still in

class. Talking, laughing and horseplay in the hallway will disturb their classes and take away from their learning.

- **Keep hands, feet and items to yourself while in the hallway.** Why? Our school is a very nice and clean place. We want to keep it that way. This helps us with not having to clean the walls so often or having to repaint all the time. Secondly, many times teachers and students showcase their work in the hallway. We need to respect others' property so everyone can enjoy it and not allow student to tear things off the walls.
- **What are other “expectations” you have of the students?**
 - You can find more information about how the Milford Wildcats are implementing PBIS in our PBIS Handbook linked on the school website.
- **Are there any other schools implementing PBIS?**
 - Yes, Jefferson, Edmeston, Schenevus, Worcester, Afton, Unatego, as well as other schools in surrounding counties have already implemented PBIS.
- **This sounds like a good idea. As a parent or guardian, how can I help the school in promoting PBIS?**
 - First, you can talk to your child about the expectations for each of the common areas— discussing each one and the reasons behind them. Explain to him/her that these are not meant to punish students, but to provide explicit directions on what we need them to do.
 - Secondly, promote PBIS to others. Schools that have implemented PBIS have also reported tremendous gains in academic areas!
 - Finally, we will be introducing Think Sheets.
 - A Think Sheet is an opportunity to learn from reflecting, or thinking, about experiences, good and bad. A Think Sheet is a very effective tool to use when a student is displaying not such **PAWS-itive** behavior and will be connected to our PBIS matrix.
 - If your child receives a Think Sheet, please review, sign, and return to school with your child.

