



CJ Morris Elementary-School Climate

What is school climate?

School environments vary greatly. Whereas some schools feel friendly, inviting, and supportive, others feel exclusionary, unwelcoming, and even unsafe. The feelings and attitudes that are elicited by a school's environment are referred to as school climate. Although it is difficult to provide a concise definition for school climate, most researchers agree that it is a multidimensional construct that includes physical, social, and academic dimensions.

Knowing that students' perceptions of school climate are related to their behavioral and emotional problems is important, but understanding the processes or mechanisms that underlie this relationship is critical to developing effective interventions to improve school climate. One of the mechanisms that may explain how school climate affects individual outcomes is school connectedness. School connectedness is defined as student perceptions of belonging and closeness with others at school. Some researchers consider school connectedness a component of school climate, but others suggest that it is a factor that intervenes between school climate and student outcomes to explain their relationship. According to the latter perspective, high-quality school climates cultivate a connection to the school and in this way protect youths from negative outcome. That is, quality of school climate impacts student feelings of connectedness to the school and, in turn, the level of connectedness is directly predictive of how students behave and feel.

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School-Wide Activities to foster School Connectedness

Amigos Club: Students in grades 3-5 may participate in a lunch time friendship club. They have the opportunity to make new friends and do fun activities.

Back to School Night: Students and their parents are invited into their new classrooms to learn about their classrooms expectations.

Book Club: Students may participate in a lunch time book club hosted by our city librarian.

Bricks for Kids: Bricks for kids is an after-school hands-on curriculum provided by an outside agency. It's a fun and interactive way to introduce children ages 5-12 to S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) using LEGO bricks.

Buddy Bench: The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. Students who need a friend at recess may sit at the buddy bench. Our PBIS Leadership students will then help that student find a friend.

Chess Masters: This is an after-school program, where students are taught to play chess and participate in a tournament.

CJ Morris Choir Club: Our music teacher works with 3rd-5th grade students to enhance vocal skills and produce music/songs for various school-wide celebrations.

CJ Morris Talent Show: Students will have the opportunity to try out and participate in the CJ Morris annual talent show held in May.

CJ Morris Track Team: 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in the CJ Morris track team. Practice is held once a week after-school. In April, the team participates in a district-wide track meet.

Coding to the Future: Coding to the future is an after-school program (provided by an outside agency) open to students in grades 2nd-5th who are interested in developing their minds and learning skills for success in school and life. Students

learn to apply thinking skills to a practical environment where they program a computer. This program is provided by an outside agency.

Digital Media Club: 4th/5th grade students capture school events digitally and create movies during their lunch recess for our school community.

Family Movie Night: In the fall, CJ Morris hosts a movie night for all students and their families.

Ice Cream Social: Students and their families are invited to attend the annual ice cream social held in May. It is after-school celebration filled with fun activities and events.

Kindness Day: As part of the district wide Anti-Bully Committee, we are striving to create a bully free school and focus on teaching our students kindness and respect for each other. In November, we celebrate World Kindness Day. This is a way of getting the word out to our students and reinforcing kindness and positive friendships.

Literacy Week: Literacy Week is a week of fun activities dedicated to encourage the love of reading. This event is held in March.

Mad Science: During this after-school program provided by an outside agency, children engage in exciting hands-on activities, watch spectacular demonstrations, participate in inquiry-based discussions and take home things that they have made themselves like model rockets, periscopes, Mad Science slime, and more! The hands-on, one-hour science programs are themed around a particular area of science and include such topics as electricity, chemical reactions, biology and many more.

Matador Achievement Club: Students who meet the following qualifications are invited to participate in "MAC".

1. Attendance: No more than 2 absences and 3 tardies.
2. Citizenship: must earn a satisfactory grade or higher.
3. Grades: 2.0 GPA
4. Service: 2 hours of school/community service per trimester.

Meet the Masters: Students in grades 1-5 participate in art curriculum as part of their daily instruction.

Mix It Up Day: So for just a day, we ask students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. This gives students an opportunity to sit with a different person and perhaps make a new friend.

Night of Giving: In December, students help collect donations for families in need. Students and their families reflect on generosity and gratitude.

No Name Calling Week: No name calling week is a week dedicated to help combat bullying and focusing on promoting kindness and positive friendships. It is an annual tradition filled with educational and fun activities.

Open House Celebration: Students and their families are invited to their classrooms to celebrate their progress and accomplishments of the school year.

Outreach: Outreach is an after school intervention program designed to provide elementary students with homework support and assist in developing and improving social skills. Students have this additional opportunity to interact with their peers and receive mentoring from high school students who are leaders in the community.

PBIS Celebrations: Every time students fill the school token jar, the whole school gets to participate in a fun celebration decided by PBIS student leadership (ex: picnic day).

PBIS Leadership: The PBIS Student Leadership focus on promoting positive behaviors and actions at CJ Morris.

PBIS: PBIS is a research based positive behavior intervention framework. It emphasizes school-wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Instead of only using consequences for individual behavioral management plans, a variety of positive behavior support for students is

implemented in the classroom and around the school (such as playground, hallways, lunch area and restrooms).

Recycling Gang: Students may volunteer to help with CJ Morris recycling during lunchtime.

Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October.

Science Olympiad: Students have the opportunity to learn and compete in events pertaining to various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. LA County Science Olympiad is typically held in February.

Spanish Class: Students in grades 1st-5th grade receive Spanish language instruction as a way to expand understanding of cultures.

Student of the Month/Trimester Assemblies: Students receive recognition for their accomplishments. (Academic, Behavior, IB Attitude)

Unity Day: October is National Bullying prevention month. To show our support, we ask that everyone try to wear orange one day in October to celebrate Unity Day. That's the day everyone can come together in schools and communities to send one large ORANGE message of support, hope, and unity to show that we are united against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion. At lunch students will have the opportunity to sign a large school Unity pledge.

Young Rembrandts: This after-school program taught by an outside agency teaches students to illustrate objects, people and animals in hilarious situations.

CJ Morris School Activities by Month

Month:	School Activity:
August	Back to School Night
September	Parent Night
October	Unity Day Red Ribbon Week
November	Kindness Day Family Movie Night
December	Night of Giving
January	No Name Calling Week Mix It Up Day Parent Night Chinese New Year
February	Black History Month LA County Science Olympiad
March	Open House Literacy Week
April	Earth Day / Earth Week District-wide track meet Parent Night
May	Talent Show Ice Cream Social