

EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' OBSERVATIONS
AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THE 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2/16/16

To Whom It May Concern:

Everyday Leadership has made an impact on Jefferson students. We've watched over the semester as many of them have incorporated the lessons into their lives. One student chose to take what he learned and apply it to basketball, becoming a better leader on the court. Another student went from being off task, to the first volunteer in any situation. We have seen others grow in confidence, taking initiative to step to guide their classmates, and begin to realize the power of their calm, level-headed presence.

One of the most exciting experiences happened when sixth grade students interviewed for the AVID Program at South Junior High. The AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) employs proven practices to prepare students for high school, college, and careers; especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The interviewers reported that students in the Everyday Leadership Program were more focused on their future, more confident in their responses, and better able to communicate than other students. All those who have joined Everyday Leadership have become better people, and the benefit of this program cannot be overstated.

Sincerely,

Julia McCoy
Everyday Leadership Teacher Liaison

Joan Bigelow
Principal, Jefferson Elementary



Garfield Elementary School

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We have been working closely with the Everyday Leadership program during the 2015-2016 school year at Garfield Elementary. We decided to allow "open enrollment" for the Everyday Leadership program at our school meaning we did not select students to be a part of the program. We offered the program to any 5th or 6th grader at our school. We received 32 permission slips and currently have 28 students who attend the program regularly. We've only had 4 students "drop out." Moreover, the 28 students still actively involved in the program are growing as student leaders in our school.

Garfield Elementary is a Title I, high poverty school within the Boise School District. 100% of our students are on the free/reduced lunch program and many of them have leadership potential but lack the resources to really develop these skills. This program has given them that opportunity. They have been taught about communication, conflict management and resolution, and motivating others to do the right thing. Further, they have listened to guest speakers from our community who have demonstrated strong leadership qualities. Our students aren't often given the chance to speak to such leaders and see what it is that will make them successful leaders in their adult lives. This program has opened doors for them to do so. Finally, training student leaders in our school has been beneficial to more than just the students involved in the program. The learned skills have had a ripple effect in our school. These student leaders are good examples for the rest of our student population and many of them are also part of our school's self-manager program—a program reserved for only the most responsible of students.

This program fosters excellent communication and discussion among the group. I've witnessed many in-depth conversations during our Everyday Leadership meetings. Topics have ranged from integrity to tolerance. The discussions are meaningful, thoughtful, and important. Our students have been able to express their thoughts eloquently while honing in on higher-level thinking skills. They're able to apply problem-solving strategies they have learned to everyday conflicts that occur at school. I think the clearest example of this program working is this: We have a student at our school who, last year, didn't always make the best choices on the playground. He chose to enroll in our Everyday Leadership program this year. At our last awards assembly, the playground assistants chose to give him a special playground award for his improved behavior during recess times. I have to believe that some of the skills he's learned during our Everyday Leadership meetings have helped him make noticeable and positive changes on the playground each day.

This is what the program is about: Taking students with potential to be great leaders and showing them how to become that leader through the skills learned in the program. Our school is diverse with students who have so much to offer their community. Giving them opportunities to capitalize on this potential with programs like Everyday Leadership is crucial to their development as productive, successful leaders. I fully believe Everyday Leadership has had and will continue to have a positive impact on our student body.

Sincerely,

Darryl Gerber
Principal

Natasha Rush
Everyday Leadership Liaison

GRACE JORDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"The Everyday Leader Program has increased attendance and academic performance among student participating in the program. Data indicates that 69% of students participating in the program have improved attendance, while over 41% have improved grades. While those results are impressive, it is the leadership skills and camaraderie developed during the program that really set it apart."

-- Jason Hutchison, Principal

"My favorite thing was Rake Up Boise because I enjoy helping people with my friends." -Catherine 6th grade

"One of the most important things I've learned is not to judge people. In the past I did judge people and I feel bad about doing so."-Catherine 6th grade

"The most important thing I have learned about is being yourself. Be unique, be you and change the world." - Sydney G. 6th grade

"The most important thing we have learned so far is that everyone is different in their own way and that makes it so we can all experience new things together." - Aleigha E. 6th grade

"My favorite part of Everyday Leaders is that we can share things that are sometimes personal." - Nic K. 5th grade

"We are learning to lead without being bossy." - Nic K. 5th grade