

October 9, 2020

Dear CES Families:

We are excited to introduce the **Second Step Program** to you. It is a curriculum that focuses on social emotional and learning readiness skills. Next week, our teachers will begin these lessons on Wednesday. The structure of the instruction is to present a lesson of the week and follow it up with daily practice.

Second Step lessons teach skills for learning. You'll be receiving Home Links describing why these skills are important and including fun activities to do with your child to practice them. We hope you enjoy them!

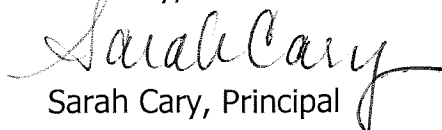
Second Step Elementary teaches kids skills that help them get along better with others. Students learn how to recognize others' feelings, show kindness and compassion, play fairly, and invite others to join. These skills are essential for building strong friendships and to help increase kids' feelings of safety and belonging at school.

Each month has a different theme such as skills for learning, empathy, or problem solving. Our first school-wide theme is that our school is a welcoming place where every student feels like he or she belongs. In our classrooms and on the morning announcements, we'll be reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. We'll also begin teaching the Second Step program, which includes lessons that support these behaviors. You will receive communication from your classroom teacher.

Please support your child at home in welcoming others and acting and speaking in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. Please tell your child's teacher if you have questions about specific ways you can help your child with these behaviors at home.

Next month's theme is skills for learning: listening, focusing attention, using self-talk to stay on-task, and being assertive when asking for help with a learning task. In our classrooms and morning announcements, we'll be reminding students of these skills, which help students be successful learners.

Sincerely,

  
Sarah Cary, Principal