

# HENRY COUNTY R-I HIGH SCHOOL



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Henry County R-I  
Implementing PBS "Early Stages"  
By: Will McKnight

Henry County R-I School District is nestled in the corners of four counties, Benton, Henry, Pettis, and Johnson in the small town of Windsor. The district serves 699 students K-12 with a total staff of 67 certified teachers. The District implemented the Positive Behavioral Support in the fall of 2008 with the aid of the Central Regional Professional Development Center located on the campus of the University of Central Missouri. The process began with the creation of a committee made up of two administrators, five classroom teachers, one counselor and Bob Rethemeyer from the Central RPDC. The decision was made for the program only to be implemented to the junior and senior high school levels. The committee members began the process by introducing a Greyhound Code of Conduct which is set universals for the classroom and all settings. The expectations are all based on students being Ready, Respectful, and Responsible.

The purpose of the intervention strategy is to allow students a first hand opportunity to view how positive behavior is perceived and treated by society as a whole. Create an environment in which instructional opportunities exist for all involved with Henry County R-1 Schools. As a District our focus is on student achievement and behavior plays a key role in how successful a student can be in the classroom this is one of the primary reasons for the implementation of the PBS program. Our District has asked for donations from the local businesses to become a part of this new strategy. Some of the items we would collect will be used in a quarterly drawing in which students can enter into by collecting Hound Pounds which is an incentive they can earn in the classroom. The Clinton Wal Mart made a major and maybe even a program saving donation of \$1000.00. The Hound Pound to some extent is school money that students can use for various items or things at the school. These drawings will be the highlight of the quarter and are sure to be a huge hit with the students as they strive to achieve both in and out of the classroom setting.

The success of the PBS program in Windsor like any other new endeavor will take time. Only then will we be able to tell whether or not the program will work and make a truly great mark on the behavioral issues being dealt with by the district on a daily basis. The beginning stages have shown some signs of success, for example many of the students have taken to the Hound Pounds incentives, however like with anything some have not. The universals are displayed and many of the students follow them on a daily basis with high regards. It is difficult in many ways to implement a program in which no other secondary schools in your immediate region are currently using. Without this ability to network and collaborate with other districts the PBS committee has had to make revisions as we go, similar to Baptism by Fire.

The hope for the future is that neighboring school districts will take part in the PBS program and in return Windsor can show them some of the pitfalls and benefits of the strategy. We as a district understand that the full implementation of the PBS program will take time and patience before the benefits can be reaped. After all when you are dealing with children time and patience is probably the most valuable characteristic a person can have.