

## Oaklawn Elementary Relationship Mapping Final Report June 2023

To support one of the SDMA strategic initiatives for the 2022-23 school year, a Relationship Mapping activity was conducted with students and staff at Oaklawn Elementary. In the early fall, staff were asked to identify students they thought they had a “positive, trusting relationship” with and who you would go to “if they had a personal problem or concern.”. Nearly 100% of students were identified as having at least one positive, trusting relationship with an Oaklawn staff member.

Staff Survey - Fall 2022				
# of connections	0	1	2	3+
# of students	2	21	75	282
	.5%	6%	20%	74%

The two students that staff did not identify as having a connection with staff were new students this school year. One of these students moved away before the student survey was administered and the other student identified connections with three staff members by the time of the student survey.

To gain a more accurate perspective of student/staff relationships, a student survey was also conducted later in the fall. This survey asked the students, “Do you have a positive, trusting connection with at least one adult at Oaklawn? This is someone you would be comfortable going to with a problem or concern.”. With an affirmative response, students selected the staff to whom they had a connection. Paper copies of the survey were provided to Kindergarten and First Grade students. Electronic versions were provided to students in Second through Fifth Grades.

**100% of students enrolled at the time the surveys were administered participated!**

Student Survey - Fall 2022				
# of connections	0	1	2	3+
# of students	11	7	19	342
	3%	2%	5%	89%

Students identified as not having a relationship with a school staff person were placed in “interventions,” targeted to foster the development of a positive, trusting relationship. Interventions included the Starfish program, small, specific groups, and more intentional, regular connections by specified staff members with a particular student.

This spring, students who previously identified no positive, trusting connections with staff, were surveyed and/or interviewed. All students identified one or more connections with school staff.

Student Survey - Spring 2023				
# of connections	0	1	2	3+
# of students	0	13	21	344
	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>91%</b>

Interventions seemed beneficial as the number of students who did not identify as having a connection with any staff member decreased from 11 to 0 over the course of this school year.

Takeaways from the survey results:

- The average number of staff connections per student was **9**.
- New students were able to identify multiple staff connections by the time of the student survey.
- **Students feel connected to more staff members than what staff identified.** This shows the importance of regular and simple interactions between all staff and students.

What students said that makes them feel connected with staff:

- Offer to help when I need it (68.9%)
- They say hello to me (68.9%)
- Use my name (65%)
- Help me fix mistakes when I make them (59.4)

What students said staff can do to help them feel more connected:

- Say hello to me (59.5%)
- Offer to help me when I need it (57.7%)
- Use my name (57.2%)

The takeaway from Oaklawn's Relationship Mapping project and the survey results is that positive, caring relationships don't require in-depth, long-term commitment by staff members. What students said they wanted and needed can be provided in simple, caring acts and interactions by all staff.