

Cool Tool – Respect: Treating our Guests Well

School Wide Expectation: Stay Positive, Know Success
Setting: All
Lesson Focus: Showing respect to all visitors to Elm

Purpose of the Lesson

1. Define who a “visitor” is
2. Brainstorm ways we can treat that visitor with respect
3. Discuss behavior in assemblies where visitors are present

SEL standard(s) met: 1B.3a; 2A3.3a; 2A.3b

Discussion Points

These discussion questions can be used for discussion purposes, role-plays, for writing prompts, or for topics of debate to teach appropriate ways to argue a point.

1. ***“Hey, who IS that person?”***

She’s a guest teacher. He’s a guest speaker. Both are visitors to our school, and they form their opinion of the school based on YOU! They may even be high school students working with you at Elm.

2. ***“No way. We’re just kids, and they know that. They expect us to act this way.”***

“Act this way?” As in thinking that because they may not be familiar with “the rules” that you can push it to the limit? As in coping to an “I’m just playing” attitude? As in ignoring them because you think they don’t have power or clout? As in treating them rudely?

3. ***“Wait a minute! I don’t do THAT. I just fool around a little bit...sort of like play time.”***

Gee, guess what...that’s another attitude that gives our guests a poor impression of Elm pride; our students don’t have enough self-respect to be able to offer respect to the guests! We know many of you are secretly proud of our school; you are proud of it’s newness, how clean it is, how you have access to computers and a great library, and teachers who love being here every day. We understand that you don’t want to show it openly, because that’s not “cool.” We get that. Still, we have some students who think it’s more fun to act thoughtlessly and with little regard for the feelings of our guests.

4. ***“WAIT! I DON’T DO THAT! I do care what people think! I don’t want them to think all the students at Elm are morons!”***

True, sometimes we just see the disrespectful behavior and forget that a lot of you treat guests well. That said, here’s what we see when you treat a guest speaker or guest teacher kindly:

- You address them by name.
- You speak up clearly.
- You don’t laugh when other people ask questions, because you want to make sure the guest teacher or speaker knows that you respect each other.
- You are respectfully quiet when ANYONE else is talking, and you let them finish a comment without shouting out and interrupting.
- You don’t ignore the requests of a guest teacher or guest speaker; when he or she asks you to be quiet, or come to attention, you do so promptly, and you politely encourage others to do the same.
- You ignore the attempts of other students to get you to join in behavior that is mean or disrespectful to the guest or to others in the classroom or assembly...even when it’s hard to do so, because it’s your best friend setting you up.
- You act with maturity, respect, and consideration for everyone in the room.

5. ***“We do ALL of that?”***

Yes, a lot of you do all of that, but some of you don't. For those of you who do the right thing, what could we do with you to help the others understand that there is only one chance for a first impression? How can we convince the students who are disrespectful that a first impression can't be undone?

6. ***“I have NO clue...”***

Then let's work on that together! Let's make Elm a place of pride, respect, and positive attitude.