



Teachers Support SAVE

(Excerpts of Letters of Support Written in 2008)

I am writing this letter in support of the Deshler SAVESNet program. I am the PEAK (Positive Effort for Adjustment and Knowledge) teacher. I have been at Deshler for 14 years. I have seen several programs come and go. Unlike the other programs, SAVESNet has had an impact on the whole school environment. The other programs are not here long enough to do much of anything. It is difficult to impact a child once a week for 30 minutes. The SAVESNet Program Coordinator is here daily. She not only interacts with the SAVESNet students, she engages all students. The SAVESNet Program Coordinator really helps the students that struggle with their behavior. Many of the students that would normally frequent the PEAK room refrain from doing so because they are rewarded for making good decisions by the SAVESNet program coordinator monthly.

Brenda Turner, Teacher

My name is John Kountz and I am a third grade teacher at Heyl Elementary. Currently SAVESNet runs a program at my school with a coordinator who is at the school everyday. It is my belief that the SAVESNet program provides my school with many positive programs which benefit the students and teachers.

Many of the programs offered by SAVESNet have directly impacted students in my class in extremely positive ways. The peer mediation group has taught many of the students in my class positive ways to handle disagreements. Many of the students come from homes in which physical action and loud voices are the only way disagreements are handled. I have noticed that students are now using the strategies taught in the peer mediation group not only to handle their own disagreements, but also to help others in the school as well.

The Leaders Lunch Crew group has done an excellent job of instilling a sense of pride in the students for their school, community, and in their selves. I see students caring more about school work, helping others without having to be asked, making sure the school is taken care of, and showing empathy towards others. Leaders Lunch Crew has helped many of my struggling learners, the "I don't care about school" students, and turned their attitudes around. They have changed into positive role models.

Both of these programs have changed Heyl Elementary in positive ways. None of this would be possible without a full-time program coordinator. Having a full-time coordinator allows the children to see that another person cares about them. A full-time coordinator also helps teachers when issues of poor attitude toward school arise in students, students are having difficulty solving a disagreement, or when teachers need advice on issues happening in the classrooms. Having a full-time coordinator is the reason SAVESNet does such an incredible job at Heyl Elementary.

John Kountz, Teacher

In our community our children have many barriers that impact the educational process and their social development, SAVESnet focuses on reducing these barriers and addressing issues. The programs are an asset that reaches far beyond the traditional classroom setting which makes for a lasting impression on our students.

Tiffany Chavers, Principal

The SAVESNet program is important to me as a teacher because it serves many of our challenging students. Just last week, one of my students was beginning to act out because he was beginning to think that his work was too challenging. As we walked into the hall, we began talking about what he had learned in his Leaders' Lunch Group. All at once he said, "Hey, I don't have to act this way. I know that I can count to ten and tell myself that everything will be okay." We walked back into the room and this student was quickly back on a positive track.

Patricia Swinger, Special Education Teacher

Our students experience many challenges both in life and in their communities. The SAVESNet Program provides our students with a safe and positive outlet. SAVESNet teaches students how to respond to conflicts and life situations in a nonviolent and productive manner. Due to the transient nature of our students' lives, one of the greatest benefits of being a SAVESNet member, for our students, is having the SAVESNet consistent and caring coordinator in our building everyday. Daily contact with the coordinator provides students with additional stability and support necessary to further their development and decision making.

Sharee Wells, Assistant Principal

One aspect of SAVESNet that is particularly important to me, and I believe it is for the kids as well, is the consistency of the coordinator and the positive reinforcement they receive from him. I think it's important for them to be supported by someone outside of the classroom. So many of the kids are in situations where there is little to no positive reinforcement at home or outside the classroom, which is why the coordinator is paramount. By far SAVESNet is beneficial to the community as a whole, it does not stop with the school building. The benefits of SAVESNet transcend the building level by helping to produce positive and productive citizens of the world. Programs such as this should continue to be supported. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me the school.

Theresa Willis, Teacher

It is always a plus to have outside community organizations involved with our school. The SAVESNet organization really does a good job instilling the importance of a Peaceful non-violent atmosphere at school. Students want to feel safe when they are in school. The message of nonviolence has been demonstrated by the SAVESNet members during their Peaceweek, and regular weekly meetings. This is a benefit to our student body and our teachers and staff.

Johnetta Wiley, Principal