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Lobbestael Elementary School Employs “Positivity Project” to Help Students

HARRISON TWP., Mich. – For almost a year, Emma V. Lobbestael Elementary School has been using lessons from the “Positivity Project” (P2) to help increase community involvement and promote healthy behaviors. The social-emotional program provides the school with lessons, videos, and materials, which Lobbestael has fully embraced to help students thrive.

According to Jessica Willinger, a Lobbestael Special Education teacher, implementing the P2 program has resulted in a decrease in student behavioral issues by creating a common language kids can use to better communicate with and understand their peers. She said students actually look forward to the P2 lesson, as it provides a “brain break” from the school day and time to be with their peers.

“They are being taught teamwork and kindness and being mindful of others no matter what their background in life may be,” Willinger said. “The videos in each lesson are engaging and the students have been seen reenacting the videos.”

Lobbestael Principal Beverly Polega said the students and staff were sent a survey to gauge how well it was being received by the school. According to the survey, both students and staff overwhelmingly voted to keep the program in place, with more than 80% of students voting positively about the program and 100% of teachers requesting its continuation next school year.

“It’s teaching them the vocabulary, its teaching them these traits and these strengths that they can find in themselves and look for in other people,” Polega said.

Lobbestael will continue the P2 program for the rest of this school year, with plans to keep integrating new lessons and initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year. Donald J. Yacks Elementary School will begin implementing the Positivity Project at their building starting next school year, becoming the second L’Anse Creuse school to utilize the program.

For more information, please contact Beverly Polega at polegbe@lc-ps.org.

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