



IMPACT 360°

Social/Emotional Learning in Kansas City, Kansas

Building Social Awareness

Defined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, social awareness is “the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures, the understanding of social and ethical norms, and to recognize the supports offered by schools, family and the community.” By developing social awareness, students gain the skills needed to interact with peers, respond to changing situations and gain a deeper appreciation for the world around them.

This December, let us work together to help our students build and expand their social development.



Four Skills Associated with Social Awareness

The Landmark School Outreach Program identifies the following four skills as essential to developing social awareness with students:

- **Perspective-taking:** Perspective-taking involves the ability to look at and understand a situation or concept from an alternate point of view.
- **Empathy:** Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. A common saying associated with empathy is to “put yourself in his/her shoes.”
- **Appreciating diversity:** Students should learn the value in recognizing that each individual is unique and that differences in race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or belief should be celebrated rather than ignored or argued.
- **Respect for others:** Respect requires students to view the world with an open mind and to ask questions rather than make judgments. Despite their differences, students are asked to treat each other with kindness and curiosity rather than hatred or prejudice.

Impact Leaders

New to the December edition, Impact 360° will highlight two Impact Leaders. These leaders were nominated for their work towards building social-emotional skills with their students, co-workers or community. If you have a colleague who you believe to be an Impact Leader, send their name and a short description of their work to Sean DeMaree, sean.demaree@kckps.org, and they could be selected as the Impact Leader in the next edition of Impact 360°.

Lisa Dimond – Eugene Ware Elementary

Lisa supports the guidance lessons so that she can implement that lesson the remainder of the year. She always refers back to the social-emotional posters, and keeps them in a place where she and her students can refer to them. Lisa has her students do mind yeti in the classroom every day after lunch so that their minds are ready for the afternoon. Lisa reaches out for support when she notices a student not acting like their usual self or when she needs new ideas on how to work with a student. She truly is a life long learner and always wants the best for the student as a whole.



Lisa Muessig – Eisenhower Middle School

Lisa Muessig has worked in the District for 33 years. Lisa has been a math teacher and school counselor with a heart to serve. Lisa has been pivotal in establishing small group counseling, service learning projects through Public Achievement and an advocate for students. Lisa has been a Lead Counselor and is a Lead Counselor for the Critical Incident Response Team. You will find Lisa working late hours, tucked in a coffee shop working on weekends and sacrificing personal time because of her commitment to her role. Lisa is also a support to her colleagues and always makes herself available to lend a helping hand. She is an amazing counselor and educator.



Character Connection

December is a time to develop your student's social awareness with the KCKPS character traits of compassion and cooperation.

Group projects that require students to share the work load, and work on positive communication skills can be a great opportunity to build social awareness. For younger students, try providing sentence stems and conversation starters to help students cooperate and communicate as a team.

One simple way to work on compassion is to promote active listening. Help students understand that sometimes listening is more powerful than talking.



Monthly Educator Video

[Improving Your Diversity IQ](#)

Monthly Student Video*

[The Present](#)

*Remember to always check for ads before playing for students

Monthly Whiteboard Message

Who will you recognize and respect today?

Monthly Lesson Plan Ideas

This month's lesson plan ideas are from the new KCKPS SECD Resource Guide. This guide was introduced in the November Impact 360°. You can access the November issue, and other past issues, [here](#).

Early Childhood – Second Grade

- Play a game of “feeling” Pictionary and let children draw examples of expressed emotions.
- Brainstorm lists as a class of cause and effect for specific feelings.
- Identify literature from curriculum that portrays reactions to specific situations. (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)
- Do a “show and tell” about family traditions.

Third – Fifth Grade

- Compare holiday traditions in various cultures.
- Create a class list of stereotypical statements made by the class throughout the week and discuss what makes them true or false.
- Have students look at a picture of a pair of shoes and describe the type of person that would wear that pair of shoes. What would they look like, act like, what type of job they would have, educational attainment, etc.
- Play small group games that involve cooperating and problem solving with others to complete a task.

Sixth – Eighth Grade

- Discuss the role of discrimination in acts of bullying.
- Create a “web” of similarities by tossing a ball of yarn to classmates with shared traits.
- Discuss a clip from “The Blind Side” to identify with the character’s perspective.
- Use the Four Corners strategy to have students identify their opinion on a controversial topic. Then have students from each corner come together for a common solution.

Nineth – Twelfth Grade

- Journal about a time when they misjudged someone because of their appearance or family background.
- Brainstorm a community service project that targets the homeless members of your community.
- Compare/contrast the impact of Supreme Court Cases, like Plessy vs. Ferguson and Brown vs. Board of Education.
- Discuss the different implications of the metaphor “the melting pot”. Listen to various types of music. Identify the perspective of the artists regarding the tone, mood, and content of the music.