

POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

RAK believes that fostering a positive school culture is essential to creating kindness in the classroom and the school. A sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and learning necessary for a productive, contributing and satisfying life in a democratic society. The National School Climate Center describes this climate as:

- Norms, values and expectations that support people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe.
- People who are engaged and respected.
- Students, families and educators who work together to develop, live and contribute to a shared school vision.
- Educators who model and nurture attitudes that emphasize the benefits and satisfaction gained from learning.
- Each person contributing to the operations of the school and the care of the physical environment.

HOW RAK FOSTERS A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

The National School Climate Council suggests assessing school culture based on four areas: safety, relationships, teaching and learning, and the external environment. RAK lesson materials foster the creation of a positive school culture in each of these areas through teaching students how to be kind to themselves and others and show kindness as an active and engaged community member.

Consider these effective ways to implement the RAK program as a school-wide initiative:

- Have the school's leadership team study the importance of social and emotional learning by reviewing the [RAK website](#) or the [CASEL website](#) and gather information to make a "Wonder Wall" that documents the team's findings.
- Consult with RAK to answer questions that arise from the staff's research.
- Encourage a "Kindness Club" at the school using the RAK materials.
- Share the materials with others at the school, including guidance counselors and administrators.
- Share the videos from passiton.com to inspire staff to act in a kind way.
- Focus on kindness through morning announcements, bulletin boards and assemblies.
- Create a professional learning community around kindness and use the [Collaborative Learning Guide](#) to determine best practices around teaching kindness.
- Use the RAK 12 Kindness Concepts to set school climate and culture goals and display the Kindness Concept Posters around the school.

