

Capturing Kids Hearts

San Rafael City Schools

Davidson Middle School

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Capturing Kids Hearts builds relational capacity between students, teachers, and the school community with the goal of increasing student engagement, achievement, and school connectedness.

Capturing Kids Hearts is a powerful set of strategies that connect students and teachers with the goal of improving student success and building relational capacity.



Davidson Middle School began implementation of Capturing Kids Hearts in August 2016. This is a school-wide implementation that begins with every teacher greeting every student prior to the beginning of class. The importance of this greeting before beginning of a lesson creates a connection between students and their teacher and provides a daily opportunity to check in with each student.

We know that teachers who support students in the learning environment can positively impact their social and academic outcomes (Baker et al., 2008; O'Connor et al., 2011; Silver et al., 2005).

Teachers in collaboration with their students create a social contract that includes behavior expectations. Students become invested in process which leads to clear expectations, productive relationships, effective learning environments, team-building skills, and a welcoming school campus.

The Davidson staff has embraced the model and all staff members have been trained on the Capturing Kids Hearts strategies. Social contracts are displayed throughout the school and students are involved in the development of these contracts. When you visit the campus at the beginning of a period, you see teachers outside their classrooms greeting and connecting with students.

