



## **PRIDE FAQ**

- **What is PRIDE?**

*The focus of PRIDE is to create a positive learning environment that teaches and reinforces positive social development. PRIDE helps us develop a school culture that is predictable, positive, safe, and consistent. We developed common building and classroom behavioral norms, characterized by the staff and student developed acronym of P.R.I.D.E.: Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Diligence, and Engagement.*

- **How do students learn about PRIDE?**

*During the 2018-2019 school year the focus on PRIDE will be through community service. During the community service opportunities and related homerooms, we will incorporate these core values as part of the activity. We will continue to be deliberate in teaching the building expectations with a focus on the greater community. These community service activities will enable students to better know the other students in their grade level and their homeroom.*

- **Why are we doing PRIDE at the high school level?**

*While Wyoming High School excels in academics, PRIDE allows us to focus more on the climate within our building: just as we have a curriculum for content, now we have a more structured process for teaching behaviors/expectations.*

*We would all agree this building, and the expectations, are different than what students experienced in elementary or even middle school, so we need to take the time to teach students those expectations instead of just assuming they know the expected behaviors because they are older.*

*We often assume high school students, because of their age, know how to behave, and that they understand the expectations. By the time students arrive at the high school, they have had many years of behavioral expectations drilled into them, beginning in kindergarten where some of the most basic behaviors are taught. As you know, each year brings a greater degree of maturity and with that maturity comes more freedom. It is our responsibility to help students navigate their changing world in a safe and welcoming environment. The staff and students at WHS will work together to create this environment.*

*This can be illustrated by a story that you may have experienced at home. When my daughter got her driver's license, she asked to drive to a friend's house one Saturday evening. We told her the curfew was 11:30 p.m. That was all we said and sent her on her way. At 11:30 p.m., she was not home and she did not call. She rolled in around 11:50 p.m. Needless to say, we were waiting for an explanation*

*for missing the appointed time. None came. After a minute, the parental inquisition began. The end result of our questioning revealed that her understanding of curfew was different than our expectation. Once we explained, in detail, what we needed her to do, curfew was not missed! Our assumptions created unnecessary stress.*

*This same premise is why our high school needs PRIDE: we need to take the time to teach our students, regardless of their age, the expectations of this building. Even at 16 years of age, we teach them how to drive a car, even though they are very familiar with driving. When students enter college, most places have a Freshman Orientation that helps students better understand how college is different. Similarly, even though high school students have been in school for years, we still have to teach them the behaviors expected in Wyoming High School.*

- **I see the PRIDE acronym on the back of the handbook and the PRIDE matrix is in the first few pages. How does PRIDE connect to the student handbook, specifically the code of conduct?**

*Tardy to School—(Preparation)—In order to be prepared, students must arrive on time, which is 7:50 a.m. Anything else is considered tardy.*

*Bags—(Preparation and Diligence)—We want to take all precautions to be prepared in case of an emergency, and we want to be diligent about safety, so all bags (e.g. backpacks, purses, etc.) need to remain in a student's locker.*

*Dress Code & Hats—(Respect)—Out of respect for others and one's self, please dress accordingly. Please, pay close attention to the length of shorts and skirts. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, and tube tops should be saved for the weekend. Hats should remain in lockers, again out of respect.*

*Cellphones—(Respect, Integrity, Engagement)—We recognize students are very socially-connected, but they need to be respectful of classroom time and be engaged with the teacher and classmates instead of their phone. Students should show some integrity by knowing their teacher's policy on cellphones and by putting their phone away during class.*

*(This is not an exhaustive list.)*

- **What happens when a student exhibits PRIDE?**

*PRIDE Bucks—Students will receive a PRIDE Buck from a staff member when they are exhibiting a PRIDE behavior; not just common behavior but going above and beyond. Students get a Buck for displaying any letter in PRIDE, not just the letter focused on by their grade level. When students receive 10 Bucks, they will be able to shop at the PRIDE store. We will be sharing some of the items they can receive in exchange for their Bucks.*

*PRIDE parties—In order to recognize more students, we will have quarterly PRIDE parties (special lunches [e.g. Cane's chicken, Chipotle, ice cream sundaes, etc.]) during lunches for 50-60 students. Attendance to these lunches will require students to have earned a PRIDE ticket.*