

# Wilson School students sing, perform school code in Friday celebration

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Four weeks into the new school year, Wilson Intermediate School students put on skits, songs and performances as they celebrated Friday the culmination activity of learning the school's behavioral code.

SCORE is an acronym in which safety, citizenship, ownership, respect and etiquette. Wilson's Assistant Principal Luke Arnsman said the teachers incorporated a responsive classroom approach this year when teaching the SCORE code. They had an assembly earlier in the year where each of the four teams in the building was assigned a pillar of the SCORE code, with the teachers being assigned etiquette. Each team - red, yellow, green and blue - put together a skit, song or other on-stage performance to show



Students at Wilson Intermediate School in Pekin performed their skits and songs during an all-school assembly on Friday morning. Each team at Wilson was responsible for acting out a different letter in their SCORE code, which is an acronym for safety, citizenship, ownership, respect and etiquette. PHOTO PROVIDED

the assigned pillar. Teams were asked to exhibit proper behavior showing their part of the SCORE code. Friday the teams got to be on the stage and perform what they worked on for the three

weeks leading up to the event.

"It was so cool because each team got to represent a letter of the SCORE code and tell us all about the letter and what it means," sixth grader Tyler Filarski said. "I think everyone could have pulled something important out of that, because it tells us about how to behave, be good citizens, listen and especially so we can all be one big family. Being family means we all get along together and listen to each other. If we all follow the SCORE code, we will be one big happy family and have a great school year."

The red team's pillar was safety. Sixth grade teacher Lori Mount said they worked on a skit and dance as a parody to the Carly Rae Jepsen song "Call Me Maybe" called "Stay in the Hallway Maybe."

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They also made posters as a visual reminder of how to be safe at school. Mount said she also talked about social media and internet safety.

"They're exposed to so much in their everyday life," she said. "Let's give them the tools to be successful."

"We're trying to be proactive (rather than reactive)," Wilson Principal Josh Norman said of he and the school staff. "We start talking about this in fourth grade."

Mount used a string as a visual way to connect with her students. Each student received a piece of string. Mount instructed them to cut it several times. Then she told them to put the string back together so it

was the exact same length as it was to start with.

Students tied knots in the string to hold it together but it was not the exact same length as it had been before they made the cuts. She tied that visual in with her lesson that once something is out there on the internet, one can delete something but it cannot be the same as it once was. Mount said that students do not yet understand the consequences of posting pictures and comments online, but she is trying to keep them safe and talk about those consequences.

Fourth grade teacher Meg Wilmarth said SCORE serves as the school rules. She took one letter each week to really dive into what it meant and the expectations teachers have.

"We have a lot of discussion and role playing," she said.

"We talked about respect. I use a lot of literature for those pillars. One book I read to them was 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' I like that one a lot. It reminds kids to be kind by filling others' 'buckets' to make them feel good."

Arnsman said that he, Norman and the teachers hand out SCORE tickets to any student they see showing one of the SCORE pillars. Then every two weeks tickets are drawn and those children are rewarded. The prizes vary but have included eating lunch with a teacher, getting a new book, helping with the daily announcements or helping in the Red Corner Café.

"Those who stay consequence-free for an incentive period get some type of reward, which could include an ice cream social, kickball, inflatables, or swimming at

DragonLand," Arnsman said. "We are cultivating kindness. We could give a ticket to someone who sees a teacher coming into school in the morning and has her hands full so they hold the door or a kid who recognizes that someone is having a hard day so he invites them to sit with him at lunch."

Norman said he incorporates the SCORE code into the morning announcements by challenging students to do something like introduce themselves to someone new. He also said that on "Day Zeros," which occur once a month, teachers have a social-emotional lesson.

"We pick something we feel is important," said Norman. "It takes a village (to raise a child). We partner with outside agencies, too. The more community support, the better."