



# ACHIEVING COMPETITIVE **EXCELLENCE**

Harrison School District 2, 2021-22

Principal and Teacher Testimonials

## Fox Meadow Middle School

*What an impact ACE has made on select Fox Meadow students. We have seen an increase of self-confidence, ability to problem solve and self-motivation has skyrocketed. Students have a belief that they are capable and ready to be successful. The skills and positive self-talk that Coaches Lee and Lee have instilled in these students has been powerful.*

*~Veronica Layman, Principal, Fox Meadow Middle School*

ACE students consistently express their willingness to participate in the class and activities. Students that I have met with stated how they look forward to attending ACE because it's engaging; THEY believe it's helping them to grow.

Many of our students need a coach that motivates them, a mentor they can connect with; specifically, someone outside of their parents and teachers vested in their now and future. When I'm observing our students in ACE class, I see an attentiveness and confidence that can transfer in and outside of a classroom setting. These are not only skills, but a mindset to know excellence is within their reach and within them.

It's more and more apparent in my nearly 20 years as educator, school is not solely about content. Learning social-emotional skills are just as critical. ACE provides the opportunity for students to learn life-long skills with a support system.

Dawn-Antoinette Thomas  
Assistant Principal  
Fox Meadow Middle School

Mr. and Mrs. Lee have given a chance to the students to have another adult motivate and encourage them to really reach their potential. Students are excited to go to ACE and ask often when they are coming back. They look forward to the next lesson and what they can learn from Coach Lee. Coach Lee takes the time to make sure the students feel heard and validated. We as teachers are also able to use their techniques in class and remind them of their excellence in our daily lessons. It has been exciting seeing students grow, get out of their comfort zones, and talk about topics that have intrigued and caught their attention to learn more.

Karina Hinson  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher  
Fox Meadow Middle School

## Centennial Elementary

My name is Cassandra Staats-Odle 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Centennial Elementary. I've been teaching for 3 years. We absolutely love ACE. The positive energy Charmas and Janice Lee bring to this school is contagious. The students are always excited when they know they get to see them. Their approach is unique. They relate to the students and care for them in a tangible way. I have used some of the Think Say Do streamline strategies in various situations. These strategies are easy to implement, efficient and highly effective. We have incorporated the Respect the Speaker and Mental Mastery Focused Drill into our daily routine, and it is making a difference. Students are learning to regulate their emotions and, in many cases, self-correcting. The Lee's are accessible via email or phone which is helpful when I want their input on certain situations. Ideally it would be great to have more time with the Lee's. We are fortunate to have ACE for our students and I value what the Lee's are doing here at Centennial Elementary.

Cassandra Staats-Odle  
4th Grade Math, Social Studies & Science Teacher  
Centennial Elementary School

Video Testimonial below from Centennial Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers Ms. Tafoya and Mr. Thompson

<https://youtu.be/lpy1w4ysTYo>