

Country Meadows Elementary School named *Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School™*.

Country Meadows has received the *Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools™* award for the 2015-2016 school year from the Flippen Group.

7 years ago, Country Meadows began an initiative to transform the campus into an emotionally safe and relationally connected place for students, staff, and parents to come alive with a love for learning.

After researching programs used by some of the nation's most successful schools, Country Meadows leaders chose to join hands with the Flippen Group to bring *Capturing Kids' Hearts®* to its campus. Teachers and staff learned processes to increase students' connectedness with both peers and adults on campus. They learned how to create a classroom environment where students are excited to enter and learn every day. As a result of implementing *Capturing Kids' Hearts*, Country Meadows has enjoyed significant increases in student achievement, attendance and major reductions in disciplinary issues.

Since 1990, campuses across the country have experienced amazing outcomes with *Capturing Kids' Hearts* tools and processes by creating socio-emotional safety conducive to learning. Flippen Group provides educators the skills they need to change the trajectory of students' lives. Openness replaces defensiveness. Judging and feelings of being judged are replaced with acceptance and real connectedness to the school. "*Discipline problems nearly non-existent,*" and "*Academic achievement constantly improving,*" are common feedback following *Capturing Kids' Hearts* implementation.

Through the *Showcase Schools* award, Flippen Group recognizes and celebrates campuses that go the extra mile each day, building an environment where students and staff feel safe and connected. Flippen Group believes unsung heroes who produce exemplary outcomes in schools and pave the way for other schools to follow, need and deserve recognition for a job well done.

*Capturing Kids' Hearts* campuses across the country were considered for this award based on the following criteria: 1) nomination based on observation, 2) level of implementation of *Capturing Kids' Hearts* processes by all staff as measured by online surveys, and 3) data demonstrating that *Capturing Kids' Hearts* has made a significant improvement in attendance, discipline, climate/culture, or academics.

A site visit to each nominated campus was conducted to gather additional quantitative and qualitative data, and to interview students, teachers, administrators and parents. A matrix of key measurements was used to gather information during the campus walk-through. Finally, an additional survey was conducted to collect feedback regarding the perceived climate and culture of the campus and its conduciveness to learning. Following the site visit, the selection team reviewed all accumulated data and selected the campuses to receive the *Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools* award.

Flippen Group is proud to recognize these outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of our children. As we identify these remarkable schools, campus leaders, and teachers each year, please join us in celebrating them as some of the most skilled and effective educators in the country!

For more information about the *Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools* award, contact:

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