Creating a Classroom Mission Statement by Examining Texts and Discussing our Principles

Created by: Leigh Kestner Saxe Gotha Elementary- Lexington, SC 2nd Grade (modified Grades K - 5 with possible changes of the level of read-alouds)

Day 1- First Day of School: Read "Wings of Change"



Wings of Change is the story of Anew, a contented little caterpillar who is afraid to become a butterfly. After experiencing some puzzling dreams, he turns to Faith, a wise old snail, for advice. She gently explains, "As the world turns, so do you. When you change for the good, you change the world too."

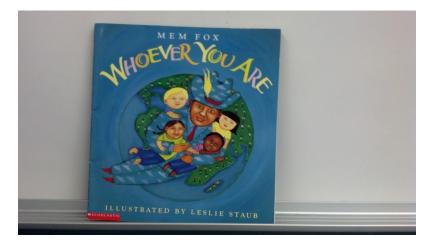
This tender, humorous story follows little Anew as he learns to release his fears and embrace his destiny. Dr. Hill, an acclaimed educational futurist, has created a dynamic medium for exploring the timeless topic of change. The luminous illustrations by Aries Cheung bring this delightful story to life. Wings of Change will touch your heart as you embrace the changes within your own life.

What lesson did Anew learn?

We wrote the the wise advice that Faith gives him and discussed what it means.

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Day 2- Start the Discussion: Read "Whoever You Are"



What do we want our classroom to be like?

"Little one, / whoever you are, / wherever you are, / there are little ones / just like you / all over the world." So begins the Australian author Mem Fox's joyful picture book Whoever You Are, a celebration of the world's diverse cultures, both our similarities and differences. Leslie Straub's innovative, colorful, folk art–style oil paintings of children from all corners of the globe are bordered with photographs of hand-carved, bejeweled frames—and they all reflect Fox's message that no matter where we come from, within our hearts "Joys are the same, / and love is the same. / Pain is the same, / and blood is the same." A gem!

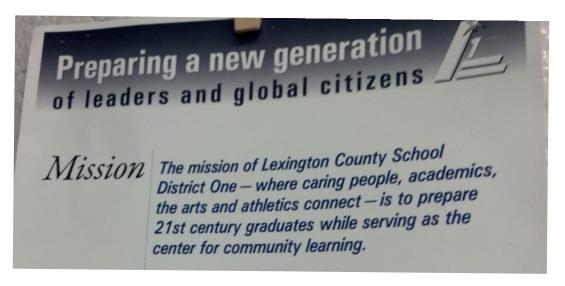
Discussion: We must decide what we believe?

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1. All Companies have mission statements. Provide examples that students will recognize.

What's your mission? -Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. -Walmart's advertised mission statement and its advertising slogan are the same: "We save people money so they can live better." In addition to this mission statement, the company looks to its founder, Sam Walton for a company "purpose": "If we work together, we'll lower the cost of living for everyone ... we'll give the world an opportunity to see what it's like to save and have a better life.' oca Cola's Mission To refresh the world ... To inspire moments of optimism and happiness ... To create value and make a difference. Examples of Classroom Mission Statements: de will be leaders that are respectful to everyone. We will > work as a team, greet each other with compliments, and put 100% effort in all we do. Do their very best + ? Don't get lost in space-Complete the Mission! We are leaders because we will come to school prepared and take responsibility for our own actions. We will always try to do our best and be positive and persistent during challenging times. The end in mind is to have focused goaldriven kids who listen and exceed expectations. We are: Smart Proactive Quistanding Citizens Respectful, responsible role models Teamwork Superstars shooting for GREATNESS!

2. Our District's (Lexington School District 1, S.C.) Mission Statement:

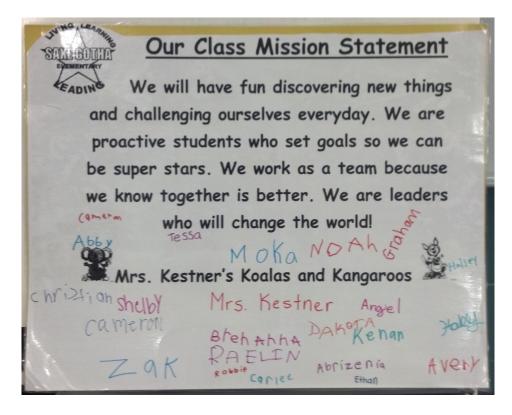


3. Saxe Gotha Elementary's Mission Statement:



The Mission Statements of Saxe Gotha Elementary-Creating a thirst for discovery and achievement by developing creative, compassionate and responsible young leaders.

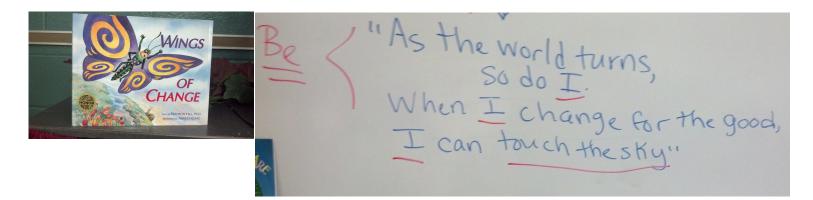
4. Examples of other classroom mission statements:



Discussion: What do they have in common?

- 1. Begin with what they believe
- 2. The work necessary to achieve the mission
- 3. What they want to be

Day 4- Discussion: What do we want to be by the end of the year?



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* They decided to go back to Wings of Change. But, let them lead to there own "be".

See above: "We will be leaders who will change the world!"

- 1. Decide what we believe.
- 2. Decide what we want to "be".
- 3. Then, the work!

Believe >> Family willi "As the world turns, So do you. (' that we the Believe When you change for the good, ou change the wor As the world turns, So do I. Nhen I change for the good, I can touch the sky"

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* The red numbers are our class votes. We decided together what to include in OUR Mission Statement.

In collaborative teams they used the votes to help them write their part of our mission: Believe, Work, or Be. Of course.... more discussion, more thought, and revision!

We believe we can accomplish challenging things by taking care of ourselves and eachother. We believe we are all the same on the inside, so we will work together to accomplish great things. We will never give up.

Our Wildly Important Goal!





Our Hard Work and Achievements!

