

MAKE YOUR DAY

A SCHOOL-WIDE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS
TEACHERS TO TEACH AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO LEARN



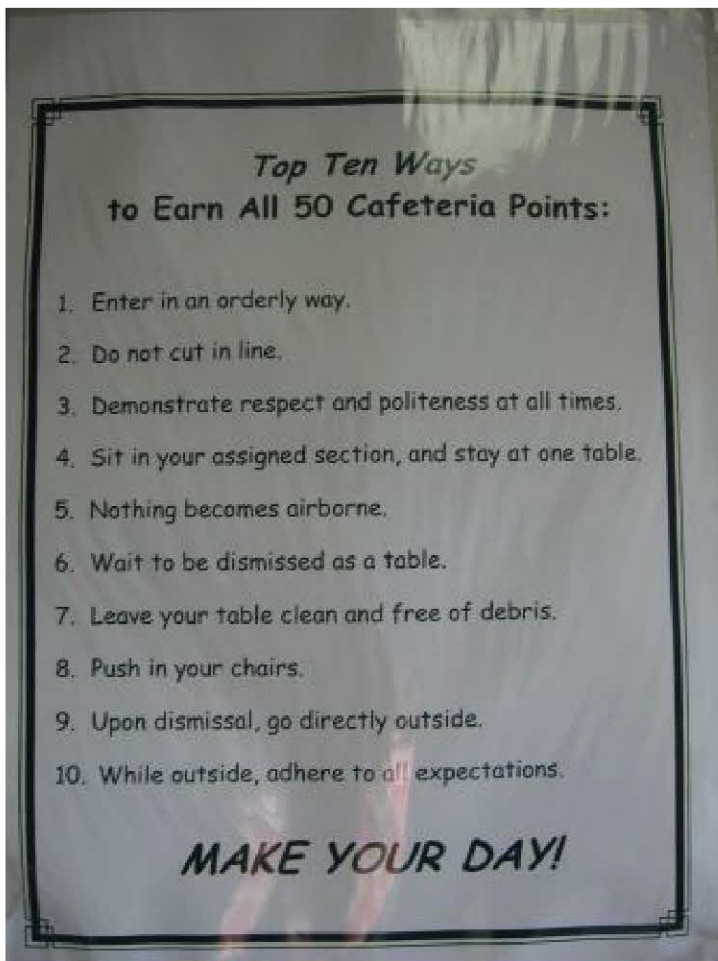
We have many questions in reference to contracting. Some teachers place students on individual contracts for the second Step One during a one hour period results in an automatic step 4. Others place students on contracts for other chronic misbehaviors like gum chewing or tardies. Do we have a strong opinion on this matter?

Yes, we do have a strong opinion in reference to contracting in this fashion. It takes patience on the part of the adults to stay the course when students are trying to change behaviors. Often, they reach for the big hammer – Step 4 – for the quick fix. It may be effective in the short-term, but the long-term results will not be there and in the meantime students and parents perceive (correctly) that MYD is being used coercively. The key question to ask oneself is... "If I were the parent, would this be important enough for me to leave work immediately and come to the school?" The issues you've described can be handled in a way that addresses the problem, while maintaining student and parent support.

Let's start with a 2nd Step One resulting in an Auto Step 4. We tell students that mistakes, both academic and behavioral, are going to be made in the learning process and it's OK. Choosing Step 1 is simply the result of a minor interfering behavior (small mistake) and allows the student some time to reflect and refocus; however, when we say the 2nd one in a period results in step 4 the message is "only one mistake allowed per period." Would a teacher do this for a math paper e.g. the 2nd mistake on your math paper will result in a failing grade on your paper. No, because they understand that mistakes are part of the learning process and they don't want students to become discouraged. For students who are repeaters on Step 1 the following one-period-at-a-time contract can be made. When giving the

student permission to return to the activity, the following is part of the dialogue "I need to let you know if you choose step 1 for any reason during this period you will be here for the remainder of the period. Do you understand? You may return to the activity."

Chewing gum/wearing hat/etc. Unless chewing gum is part of the classroom/school expectation, students do not earn points while chewing gum. If a student chews gum throughout the period, they are not earning points. The school-home communication will reflect this, which informs the parents who can then work with their child – without leaving work.



After Winter Break...

January is an excellent time to revisit MYD as a school, along with taking the time to re-up MYD with your students. Ted Polk Middle School posted clear cafeteria expectations to help students and staff stay on the same page in that area. Estrella Vista Elementary School changed an observation form into a self-check in reference to implementation of MYD - an excellent tool for maintaining the integrity of the program. You can find it at

http://www.makeyourday.net/images/MYD_observation_form.admin_1_.pdf

MYD Regional Training via Video Conferencing

If you are new to a MYD school or would like a refresher on MYD, we are offering 8 hours of training at the cost of \$80/person. Enrollment is limited to 10 each session.

Upcoming Sessions:

T-Th January 12, 14, 19 & 21 3:30pm-5:30pm Arizona Time
Sat January 9 & 17 9am-1pm Arizona

Topics:

Philosophy and Ownership of the Rule
Steps 1-4 and the Step 4 Conference
Points: Logistics and Benefits
Concerns and Closing Out the Day

Materials:

A copy of your school's MYD Training Manual
A computer with access to the internet
A camera
A headset with microphone

If you district has video conferencing capabilities, you may use those.

Prior to the training, please schedule a time with Cheryl to test your system. Call 480-419-0605 to schedule an appointment.

[Register Now](#)



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