

*Love - Our Classroom Foundation
Using Love Languages
in the Classroom*



presented by: Jess Toelke, Randi Gehlert, Randee Schatz-Morris
Gerald Elementary School
Gasconade County R-2 School District

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL



- Located in Gerald, Missouri
 - population around 1,300
 - 30% of household income falls between \$10-25K
- Part of the Gasconade County R2 School District
- 50 staff members
- 308 students (Pre-K Through 5th Grade)
- 58% of students are free/reduced



Session Outcomes:



- Attendees will recognize the positive impact of building positive relationships and making connections with students.
- Attendees will learn how teachers at GES conducted a book study on The 5 Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell.
- Attendees will learn how to implement The 5 Love Languages in their classrooms based on the data they collect from their own students.

Think about a student you've had in class that had behavior issues. As you think about this student, can you identify his/her love language? Would knowing the student's love language have changed the behavior? What would you have done differently.

*As we go through the presentation, please continue to think about this student.



Guiding Questions

- ♥ What does each of your students need to feel safe? To learn?
- ♥ What do your colleagues value and what are their unique talents?
- ♥ What can you do (that doesn't cost you anything or require some new expertise) to build relationships with those around you?

“The quality of teacher-student
RELATIONSHIPS is the keystone for all other
aspects of classroom management.”

(Marzano and Marzano, Dimensions of Learning)

What are the 5 Love Languages?

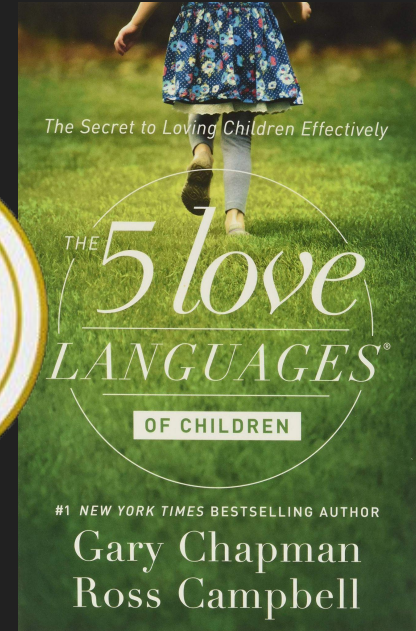
Words of Affirmation

Acts of Service

Quality Time

Physical Touch

Receiving Gifts



“If you don’t tell YOUR story, someone else will.”


-Unknown



shutterstock.com · 628802006

The POSITIVE Impact of Social Media!





<  Amanda [redacted] ...
Aug 30, 2021 · 2

Jayden took a love language quiz for school. His answers to his heart and mind are quality time and words of affirmation ❤️. Love the fact they did this to get to know these kids and how to help them. If you haven't taken a love language quiz, please do. It will help you understand people and love them better daily!


❤️ Love 💬 Comment ↻ Send


👍👍 You and 6 others

 Sarina [redacted]
Love this
32w Like Reply

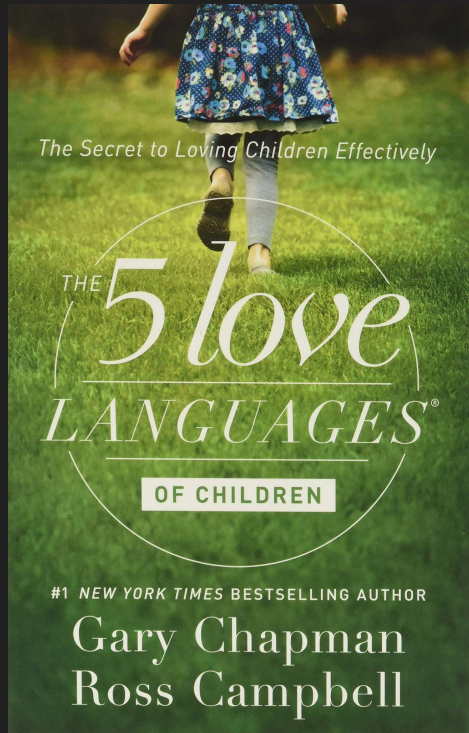
 Amanda [redacted]
Sarina [redacted] I know I have been preaching love language and then this happened! I couldn't have been happier to see this assignment!
32w Like Reply 1 👍

Amanda [redacted] That book is amazing and I see they have it for so many other areas now besides marriage. I wonder if any other grades did this.
32w Like Reply

 Sarina [redacted] jayden is in 5th grade this year. I'm not sure if this was something his teacher decided to do based upon personal experience but could you imagine if everyone decided to learn more about each person they cared about!! This world would be so different!
32w Like Reply 1 👍

 Sarina [redacted]
Amanda [redacted] Yes it would! I think this should be required.
32w Like Reply 1 👍

Book Study



The 5 Love Languages of Children

Group Study Guide

How can you learn to speak each of the five love languages with your children – and fill their love tank? This interactive guide includes study questions and exercises for you, for your spouse, and for group discussion.

GCR2 Winter Workshop

Session 4C: Love Languages for Students

Explore the Love Languages and how they can help you meet the needs of your students.

- Using it with the kids you have for Dutch Time
- Helps with strategies to connect with behavioral students

Dr. Staci Johnson, Assistant Superintendent



“So I made a resolution to accept “the leaner.” Since I finished the book, I’ve not only let him push into me, I’ve put my arm around him, pulled him closer, tucked away that need to shake him off. Whether we are watching a movie or the Chiefs play, he is sitting near/on me. When he is angry or having a meltdown, I try to hug him until his breathing slows and he can talk about it. I don’t always do it right, that’s for sure, but it has made a huge difference in his feeling of security and in my sanity.”



THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

Affirmation: Your coffee is delicious.

Acts of Service: I made you coffee.

Receiving Gifts: Here's a coffee.

Quality Time: Let's go get a coffee.

Physical Touch: Let me hold you like a coffee.



Words of Affirmation

Express love in this way:

- Leaving notes and letting them know they are important.

Pitfalls for this:

- Insults cut deep with this kid. Leave compliments as is...not “You did a great job, but next time...”

Examples to use in the classroom:

- Say things like, “I really like how you...” or “I am really proud of you because...”



Acts of Service

Express love in this way:

- Thoughtful gestures, tying their shoes, fix a broken toy, tuck them in.

Pitfalls for this:

- Work to still push independence; teaching them they are capable.

Examples to use in the classroom:

- Offer one-on-one help with a project, during free-time, or on a difficult assignment.



Quality Time

Express love in this way:

- Offer your undivided attention. This time can be short, but give your full attention and let the child choose the activity.

Pitfalls for this:

- Isolating this child or putting them in timeout can be a severe punishment for this child.

Examples to use in the classroom:

- “I’d love for you to tell me more about this project, picture, etc.”



Physical Touch

Express love in this way:

- Hugs, kisses, snuggles, high-fives, wrestling, holding hands

Pitfalls for this love language:

- Any touch given that is not through affection can be extra harmful to this kid.

Examples to use in the classroom:

- Give them a high-five or elbow bump. As always, make sure any physical contact is appropriate to use with your students, which may vary based on the student's age, gender, and/or culture.



Receiving Gifts

Express love in this way:

- Store-bought gifts are fine, but these kids will even appreciate being given something you made.

Pitfalls for this:

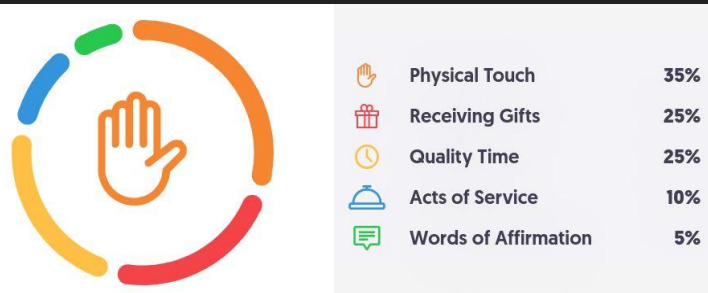
- Try not to overdo it. Look into “gifts” that are more needs rather than just wants.

Examples to use in the classroom:

- Rewards, such a small token, sticker, or sweet treat.



Figuring Out Your Students' Love Languages



- Students take the kid-friendly quiz.
- Use GoGuardian to screenshot results.
- Share and discuss results with the students individually.
- Give them a chance to share their results with each other (if they feel comfortable)

<https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language>

Keep in mind...

It's still important to do things for your students that aren't necessarily their "love language" because they do like and appreciate them. It just means that you have to recognize that those things are not the ones filling up their "love tanks."



Jessie Bayless, High School Art



“Here’s what I put in Google Classroom:






Here is the love language test I talked about last week. I would like you to take it and share your results with me, please. Take it as a “Teen,” obviously (you will be given options at the beginning). Write your name and top 2 languages and the percentage on the sticky note I gave you. Read about the results and have a deeper understanding of You. Share your results with your friends and family. They can take the test and you can get to know what you and others you care about Need.

In my class, they wrote theirs on stickies, and we just kind of briefly talked about them. They are shy about this.





I noticed a significant, almost immediate, connection with students that were open to it. They felt cared for. And, the connection continued. For the ones that didn’t really care, I had their love language to win them over :) which has definitely been a good resource.”

Student Results



	Acts of Service	35%
	Words of Affirmation	25%
	Physical Touch	20%
	Quality Time	20%
	Receiving Gifts	0%



	Physical Touch	35%
	Receiving Gifts	25%
	Quality Time	25%
	Acts of Service	10%
	Words of Affirmation	5%

Some students were no surprise. Their results were something we could have guessed. However, some students took us by surprise...

Julie Sieber, High School English



“Well, I just did the test with my seniors in dutchtime. Found out I had more cuddlers than I thought. LOL

I was just testing it with them for next year when I get freshmen that I don't know too much about and won't have in actual class. I haven't really DONE anything with it. I plan on using it to make connections next year with my dutchtimers so that we can put up with each other for 4 years.”

Sharing Results

These are printouts we gave families at conferences along with their student's results.

Applying the 'Love Languages' to the Parent-Child Relationship

February 16, 2013 · By Melissa Wright, MA, LPC, RPT, NCC, Adjusting to Change // Life Transitions

When counseling parents and their children, I often refer to the "love languages"—an idea coined by Dr. Gary Chapman, a relationship counselor most well known for the Love Languages series of books.

People express their love in a variety of ways, and what is important to one person may not be as much to another. If someone's top languages are not being met, it can lead to negative feelings and behaviors.

The five love languages are as follows:

1. Physical touch
2. Words of affirmation
3. Quality time
4. Gift giving
5. Acts of service

While you may have heard of the love languages, you may not have applied them to the parent-child relationship. It's telling kids "I love you" in a language they respond to. Saying the words often isn't enough. Parents often assume their kids know they are loved, but that's not always the case.

Love should be unconditional, but is often displayed conditionally (such as when kids are good). Unconditional love can prevent problems such as resentment, feelings of guilt, fear, anger, low self-esteem, and insecurity. Children need to feel loved; if they don't, they may seek approval elsewhere.

Now let's talk about how to incorporate these into your daily lives:

1. Physical Touch: Some ways to incorporate physical touch include hugging, kissing, child sitting on lap, cuddling during stories, television, or movies, tossing in the air, gentle touches on legs, arms, head, shoulders, etc., back scratches, high-fives and contact sports.

As kids get older, parents may touch only when necessary, like when helping with clothes or hair. Kids will crave more contact when sick, hurt, tired, or sad. Teenagers, especially boys, will pull back from physical touch. Make sure the touch is positive and at the right time and place. Don't embarrass!

Conversely, a negative touch coming from a place of anger can be detrimental.

2. Words of Affirmation: Words of affirmation are ways to give praise and encouragement for what the child does. Since a child's behavior is something he or she controls, there is a direct effect.

Be genuine when giving praise. Praising too frequently may have little positive effect, as it can come across as insincere. This can set up an expectation for praise, and create anxiety when it is absent. The way you word praise and your voice tone and volume make a big difference. Words of guidance will be sought elsewhere—from school, TV, peers, or other adults—if not received from parents.

Although it may seem obvious, words of negativity really hurt, and the greatest enemy of encouragement is anger.

Make sure to say "I love you" on its own, not with qualifiers such as "but ..." or "will you ..." attached.

3. Quality Time: Spend quality time with your child. Kids really seem to crave this, especially any one-on-one time. This love language is fairly self-explanatory. It can be going somewhere or just hanging out. Think of those moments when you're sharing thoughts and feelings, having good, quality conversations. Mealtime, going for walks, story time, or bedtime can be good opportunities.

4. Gift Giving: Giving gifts can be one that parents roll their eyes at. Of course kids like gifts! However, it is more about the thought behind it. In a child's mind: "You were thinking of me and got it, since I'm important." Other languages need to be combined with gift giving. It is not a paycheck or bribe, nor should it be a substitute for time spent. As with praise, excess gifts lose their meaning. You can tell gift giving is important if kids express excitement when receiving a gift or based on how it is presented, or display it proudly.

5. Acts of Service: Acts of service is a big part of being a parent, as the list of tasks, errands, and to-do list items never seems to end. Acts of service refers to going above and beyond making sure kids' needs are met. This could include offering to help with something before they ask, or at least not saying "in a minute" when they do. Encouraging a hobby, checking homework, hosting events for the kids at home, or doing things to make an illness more bearable are other examples.

To discover someone's primary language, note the following:

1. Observe how they express love to you.
2. Observe how they express love to others.
3. Listen to what they request most often.
4. Notice what they complain about the most.
5. Give them choices between two options.

You need to show love in all five ways, but try to discover the person's primary language (or top two or three). When the person is under 5 years old, try to hit all five languages.

<https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/love-languages-parent-child-relationship-0215135>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rsNseLoE13xWP4O6ZCbVKrE9DBk7veC7j9XBs3D6UYs/edit?usp=sharing>

Parent, 4th Grade

“I loved that you did this. I now understand why Robbie doesn’t always do hugs and physical touch. And I try to show him in ways he could recognize.”



Parent, 4th and 6th Grades



“Hi! I’d be glad to share. I thought it was really awesome knowledge to have. Roman has always been my snuggler so touch being his number one was not necessarily a surprise. I feel like it is probably my number one as well. What I found really interesting was that Lyla’s touch was 0%. It was eye-opening that, just like they need to be parented differently because of the different personalities, they need to be shown love differently as well.”

How To Use Results in the Classroom?

Brainstorm with the people around you!



5:00

SHARE!

How To Use Results in the
Classroom?

Other Ways to Implement Your Students' Love Language Results

Teacher-Student Relationships:

Using what we know about our students' love languages can help when building positive relationships.

Tier 2 Behavior Intervention:

Having the knowledge of what kids need/want can be a game changer when interacting with our “hard-to-reach” students. This information can be used when determining rewards for interventions such as CI/CO. *It can help students understand their needs.



<https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/love-languages-parent-child-relationship-0215135>
<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/love-languages-of-children/>

Using Love Languages with Staff

Many districts are looking for ways to improve the culture and climate of their schools.

How could Love Languages play a role in this?

Jessie Bayless, High School Art

“February is World Kindness month. What a perfect time to learn a little about how you love and how you like to be loved. So, getting ready for the month, and bouncing off of the Love Language workshop at PD, I’m having my Dutchtime take this quiz. I learned about love languages many many moons ago, and they have helped me as a teacher. I’ve gotten pretty good at reading their languages without even taking the test. Wanted to share with you all! (It’s not just for the little guys)

It may feel quirky and weird at first, but there are good things to be learned.

There are quizzes for teens, couples, friends, work colleagues.

Maybe we could even take the tests and know what each other needs? Feel free to share your results with me. I’m a “words of affirmation and acts of service.”

The more we care, the more we grow.”

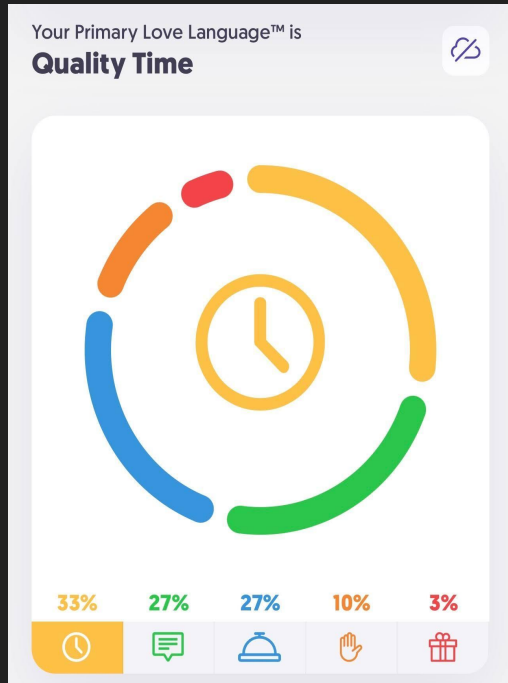


Scan the code or use the link below to discover
your Love Language.

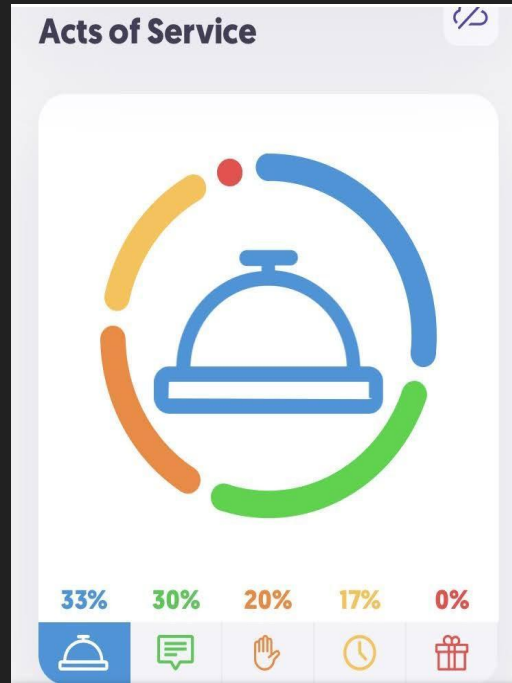


<https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language>

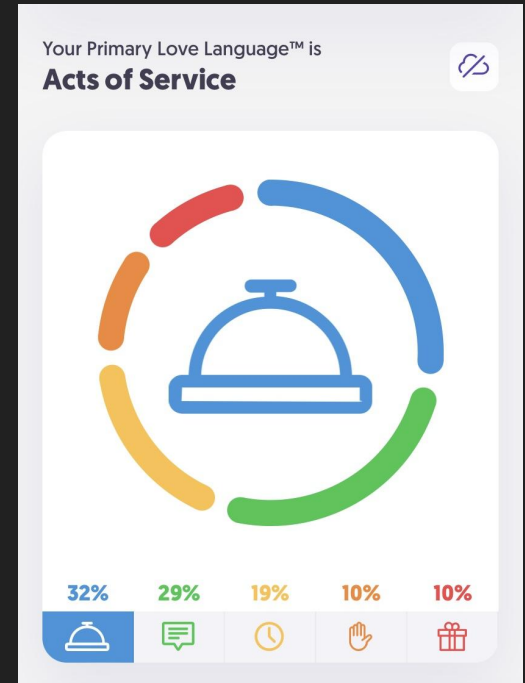
Our Results



Jess



Randi



Randee

Share Your Results

According to Chapman, words of affirmation are the most common primary love language by a small margin. That's based on the responses of 10,000 people who took the online quiz on his website in December 2010. Here's the breakdown:

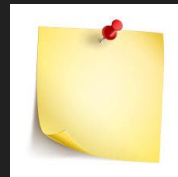
- Words of affirmation: 23%
- Quality time: 20%
- Acts of service: 20%
- Physical touch: 19%
- Receiving gifts: 18%

Chapman also noted that this was not a scientific study — just a sampling of the people who came to his website during that time period.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/most-common-love-language_n_5b4f906be4b0b15aba8b1d2c

 Were you surprised or was it what you expected?

 How do your results compare with those above?



Amanda Dozier, Title I

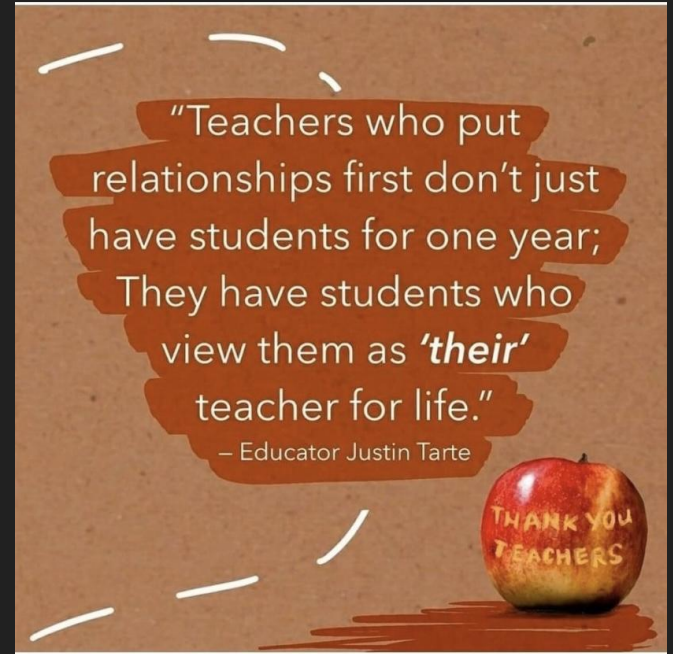
“I did the quiz with each of my family members and I was a little surprised by their results! Was eye opening to hear some of their answers and how it was different from what I thought their answer would be.”



Alex Voss, 4th grade

“Mine isn’t so much of a story I guess, but definitely an implementation on the wonderful presentation that was given.

I had my kiddos do their love language test. They really enjoyed it and enjoyed learning more about themselves. It was very helpful for me as a teacher and I will be doing it more in the beginning of the year.”



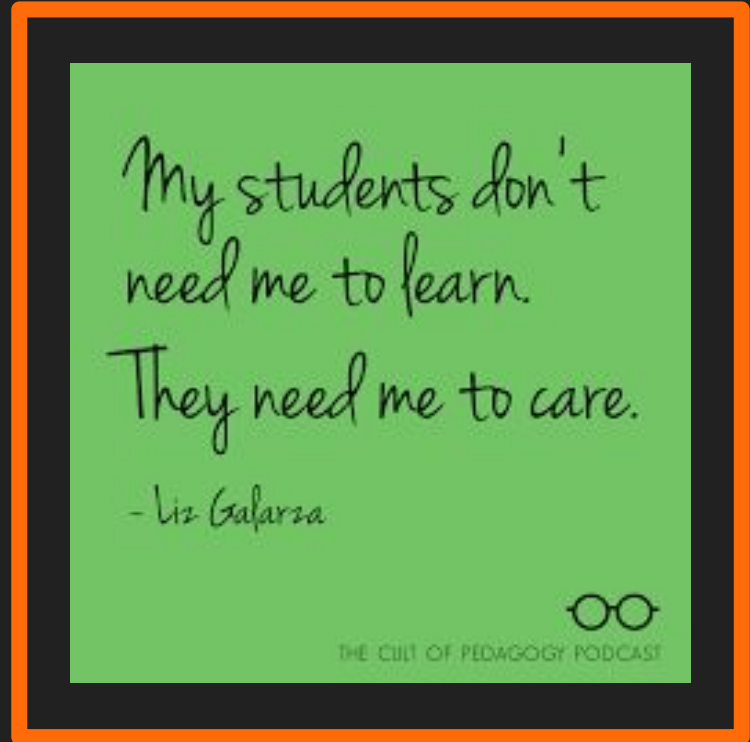
Jessie Bayless, High School Art



“I even had two girls, separately, talk about their significant other and how their love languages were not being met. One student talked about their mom and how he could love her more, because she needs it right now. It’s all good stuff! Even if they didn’t show that they connected with it, you could tell many did. I’ve had their stickies since then, and plan to give them back in our “slump” months, which is now, to remind them of their own love language, and how they need to be sure to care for themselves as well, and seek surrounding themselves with it to support themselves. And, to be aware of others’ that they care about as well.”

Heather Wehmeyer, Full-Time Substitute

“This is a wonderful book!
I’m glad to see it in the
hands of our Dutchmen
Staff! Great resource
choice!!”



Kari Nolting, ISS/At Risk

“Hey! I think your presentation in January was actually really good! I think linking it back to your personal stories with how you have connected with difficult students and changed/improved the environments in your classrooms because of this knowledge and these skills is exactly what other teachers need to hear. It gives other teachers support and confidence to try these things if they know it worked for someone else. Best of luck! Really cool that you all get to present elsewhere too! Thank you.”

No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship.

- James Comer

Guiding Questions

- ♥ What does each of your students need to feel safe? To learn?
- ♥ What do your colleagues value and what are their unique talents?
- ♥ What can you do (that doesn't cost you anything or require some new expertise) to build relationships with those around you?

Contact Information:

Jess Toelke, 3rd Grade

jtoelke@dutchmen.us

Randi Gehlert, 4th Grade

rgehlert@dutchmen.us

Randee Schatz-Morris,
Kindergarten

rschatz@dutchmen.us

No one cares how much you
know, until they know how much
you care.

- Theodore Roosevelt

**ALL THE DATA IN THE WORLD
CANNOT ACCURATELY
MEASURE THE LOVE AND
HEARTBREAK THAT GOES
INTO A SINGLE DAY OF
TEACHING CHILDREN
WHOSE NEEDS GO FAR
BEYOND THE CURRICULUM.**

**BORED
TEACHERS**

EVERY KID IS ONE
CARING ADULT AWAY
FROM BEING A
SUCCESS STORY.

isJarrED
www.isjared.com