

# HARNESSING POSITIVITY: HOW TO COMBAT THE NEGATIVE

Thorpe Gordon STEM Academy

Presenters: Heather Nelson, Jessica Soskin, and Kara Flores



# OUTCOMES

01

Attendees will walk away with real-life examples and ideas for creating positive incentives to implement in their school or classroom.

02

Attendees will walk away with practical ideas on how to combat focusing on the negative and the benefits of focusing on the positive.

# AGENDA

▶	Introductions and All About TGSA	<b>01</b>
▶	Character Assembly	<b>02</b>
▶	Pinto Pride Exchange	<b>03</b>
▶	Pinto Bucks and Raffle	<b>04</b>
▶	Morning Meetings	<b>05</b>
▶	Positive Office Referrals	<b>06</b>

▶	School Wide Incentive	<b>07</b>
▶	Class Compliments	<b>08</b>
▶	Pinto Punch Cards	<b>09</b>
▶	Pinto Pride Time	<b>10</b>
▶	Conclusion	<b>10</b>



# INTRODUCTION

01

Heather Nelson  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Thorpe Gordon STEM Academy  
Behavior Interventionist

02

Jessica Soskin  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Thorpe Gordon STEM Academy  
4th Grade Educator

04

Kara Flores  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Thorpe Gordon STEM Academy  
5th Grade Educator





# THORPE GORDON STEM ACADEMY

## Enrollment

- School Enrollment Total 300
- **NUMBER** of students who are:
  - African American 108
  - Asian/Pacific Islander 2
  - Latinx 27
  - Multi-Racial 45
  - Native American 0
  - White 118

## **NUMBER** of students:

- With IEPs 43
- Qualify for F/R Lunch 100%



# HOW IT STARTED- HOW IT'S GOING?

- **2021-2022**

- **Majors 742**
- **Minors 876**

- **2024 - 2025 (as of March)**

- **Majors 220**
- **Minors 580**

**STEM at Thorpe Gordon, Yes We Can,  
and We Will**



# REFLECTION

- What is the biggest struggle in your school?
- What negative things do you come against?

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and We Will

## REFLECTIONS



# CHARACTER ASSEMBLIES

- ▶ Monthly Assembly
- ▶ Character Student (1 per class)
- ▶ Discuss the Character Definition
- ▶ Hand out Awards
- ▶ School Song
- ▶ School Chant
- ▶ Invite Parents

**August - Self Discipline**

**September - Respect**

**October - Responsible**

**November - Polite**

**December - Compassion**

**January - Hard Work**

**February - Honest**

**March - Trustworthy**

**April - Accountable**

**May - Forgiving**

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and We Will**





# PINTO PRIDE EXCHANGE

- ▶ Students receive Pinto Cash or Dojo for following the Big 4.
- ▶ Students can then use that cash/points to buy from the teacher Pinto Prize or save to buy from our Pinto Pride Exchange for large ticket items







# PINTO BUCKS AND RAFFLE

## ► What is a Pinto Buck?

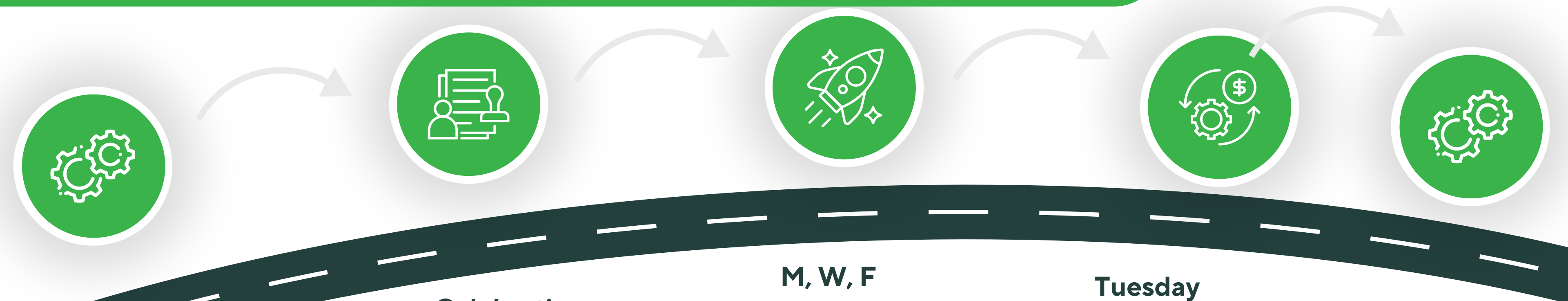
Pinto Bucks are written by staff for staff. These are simply appreciation notes that staff members write to each other throughout the year as a reminder that it takes a team to do what we do.

## ► Raffle

At the end of the school year the PBIS team seeks out donations from various local vendors and companies. These items are then raffled off using the Pinto Bucks that were earned throughout the year.



# MORNING MEETINGS



## Everyday we begin with...

- Welcome
- Gordon Way
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Our Academy Mission
- School Reminders
- School Expectations
- Lunch

## Celebration

- Student/Class celebrations
- Attendance winners
- Pay students for attending on time

## M, W, F

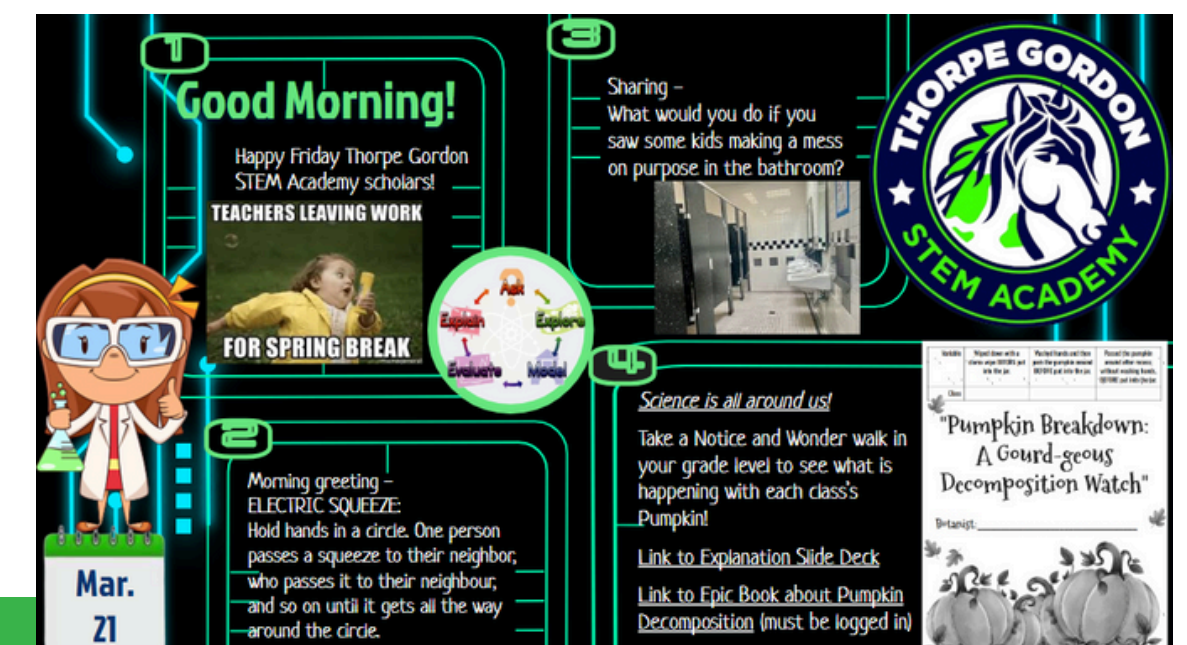
- Welcome Meme
- Morning Greeting (Act like, sound like, etc.)
- Sharing.. Brain storm and discuss...
- Information (Affirmation Monday, Data Wednesday, Science Friday)

## Tuesday

PBIS Lesson  
Based on school wide need and character traits.

## Thursday

SEL Lessons - Second Steps





# POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRALS- PINTO PRAISE

Students receive a positive office referral for showing excellence in at least one of the following areas:

1. Responsibility
2. Respect
3. Kindness
4. Safety

Students receive their positive office referrals (Pinto Praise) at the end of the week along with a treat.





# SCHOOLWIDE INCENTIVES

3 times a year we have a month long school wide incentive.

We use our Pinto Praises to drive the incentive.



Mummify your teacher



Hot Cocca Challenge



Pie in the Face.





# CLASS COMPLIMENTS

## ► Compliment Sheet

Each class has a Class Compliment Chart that has 25 school logos. They display this in the front of their classroom.

## ► Receive a Compliment

When the class receives a verbal compliment, students mark off one of the school logos. The goal is to mark off all 25 logos about once a month.

## ► Positive Rewards

After every logo is marked off, the class receives a compliment party.

- Read outside for 15 minutes
- Extra 5 minutes of recess
- 15 minutes of STEM bin time
- Complete a STEM activity





## LUNCH WITH FRIEND



MORNING  
MEETING



ELA



MATH



SCIENCE



DMR/BFF



SOCIAL  
STUDIES



## RETEACH CARD



WRITE A  
LETTER ABOUT  
CHANGES



HAVE A 5  
STAR DAY



APOLOGIZE



5 WALKING  
LAPS



OWE 1  
RECESS



COMPLETE A  
WORKSHEET  
ABOUT RESPECT



# PINTO PUNCH CARDS

## Clear objectives and rewards

Punch cards are tailored to student interests and need. Student and teacher choose a behavior goal for the day. Student either meets or does not meet the goal per subject. You choose the number of reminders you allow for each student. Stars at the bottom of the punch card turn into Dojo points at the end of the day. I cross off a star if I have to remind them to follow a behavior expectation.

## Reteach expectations

If a student does not pass their punch card or shows extreme behaviors, create a reteach punch card for them to complete the next day. I do not allow students to begin reward punch cards until the reteach card is complete.





# PINTO PRIDE TIME

## What it is?

- A STEM based activity that students can earn each week on Friday for being safe, respectful, responsible, and kind.

## Why?

- Accountability for minors, students that do not earn Pinto Pride time then go a classroom for reteaching.



# IDEAS

**What ideas can you  
share that  
have created  
positivity in your school?**



# QUESTIONS

**What questions  
do you still have?**





# CONCLUSION

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