# Fostering Joyful Learning Environments: Strategies for Cultivating Positivity and Engagement in Schools

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### INTRO: **Nikki Giel**



### Today's Agenda





# **Joyful Learning**

**Strengthening School-Home Connections** 

Measuring and Sustaining Joy

### What is a \_\_\_\_\_ joyful school?



Thrive



Engagement



### **Shared Purpose**





### Fostering joy can enhance the overall culture -

### which can lead to:

- improved academic outcomes
- stronger relationships
- cohesive community





## Power of Joy in the School Leader Setting the tone





### Set the tone for the entire school



# Power of Joy in the School Leader Modeling joyful behavior



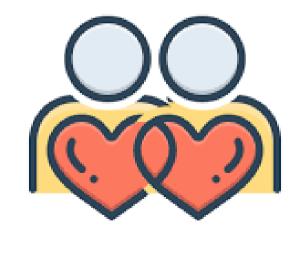
Demonstrate joy

### Contagious and can cause a ripple effect



# **Creating a Positive School Culture** Cultivating a Sense of Belonging

Joyful environment = one where everyone feels they belong



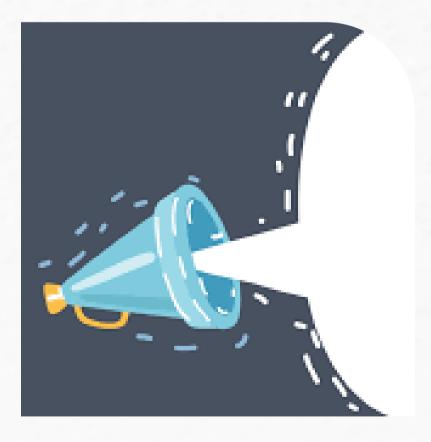
Celebrate your school

- Clubs
- Events
- Peer Mentoring





## **Creating a Positive School Culture Encouraging Student Voice**



Create opportunities for student voice:

- Student council
- Project-based learning
- Surveys





### **Engaging Teachers and Staff Professional Development**



PD that includes **FUN** 

- Team Building
  - Activities
  - Creative Workshops
  - Mindfullness







# **Engaging Teachers and Staff Recognizing and Celebrating Achievements**



Regularly acknowledge successes of your staff.

HOW? Formal Program Shout Out's Notes of Appreciation

> Incurages others to keep doing thier **BEST**!



# Joyful Learning Strategies Incorporating Play and Creativity



Integrate Play & Creative Activities

Little Learners: Hands-on projects Art Music

### **Bigger Learners:**

Problem- solving challenges Collaborative Projects Explore Personal Interests



## **Joyful Learning Strategies** Flexible Learning Spaces



**Design Learning Spaces:** Flexible Variety of activities

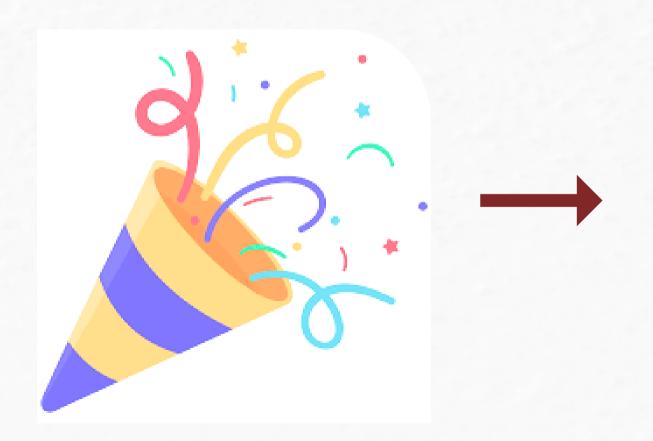
Joy happens when spaces are... Adaptable, comfortable and visually stimulating

**Consider:** Move around? Work in Groups? **Reflection?** 





# **Strengthening School-Home Connections Celebrating Together**



### **Bring the ENTIRE community together:**

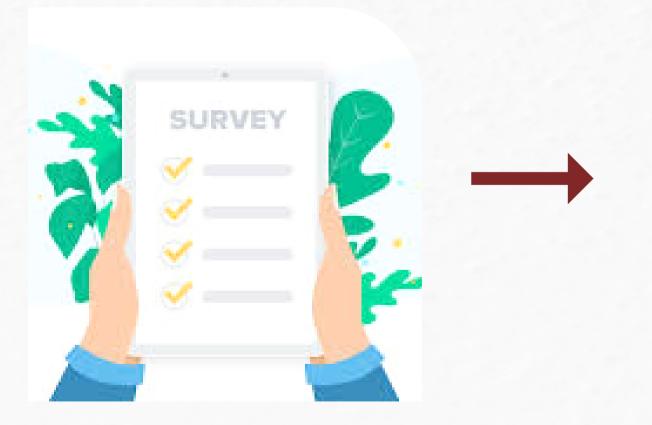
- Festival
- Talent Show
- Sporting Event

### WHY:

- Shared Joy
- Reinforce a culture of JOY



# **Measuring and Sustaining Joy** Regular Check-Ins

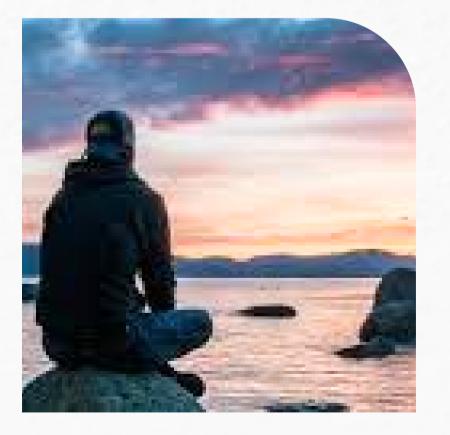


**Regular surveys** or informal check-ins with students & staff to gauge the overall atmosphere of the school.

**Use this feedback** to identify areas for improvement and to sustain the joyful environment you've worked to create.



# **Measuring and Sustaining Joy** Sustaining Joy



Encourage students & staff to reflect on their experiences & identify moments of joy.

### This can be done by:

- journaling
- group discussions
- digital platforms

• use this info to tell positive stories

### NOT just about FUN

Fostering a joyful learning environment is not just about making school a fun place to be—**it's about creating a culture where students and staff are:** 

- motivated
- engaged
- connected



# As a leader - your role is:

### Crucial

setting the tone and embedding joy into the fabric of your school's culture

### Priority

you'll find that academic outcomes improve

### Improvement

well-being and satisfaction of those in the community improves

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# **Questions?**

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# **Thank You For Attending**



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