

Students:
Have you been
CAUGHT in the act?

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Freshmen Students Caught In the Act

When's the last time you got caught in the act? At Southeast High School (SEHS), freshmen students are getting caught all the time.

Traditionally, the SEHS Freshmen Learning Center (FLC) has centered on creating a supportive and safe environment for students transitioning into high school. A team of dedicated teachers forms the foundation of the FLC, collaborating to provide their students with academic, emotional, and social support. Freshmen teachers hold monthly Small Learning Communities (SLC) meetings with small groups of students to explore important topics such as discipline, grades, the GPA system, and career pathways. Assistant Principal Rosa Daughtry took things up a notch this year by implementing a positive program called "PBS."

"PBS stands for the Positive Behavior Support program," explained Charlie Gage, social studies teacher and FLC leader. "What we are doing is recognizing our students for positive behavior. When they are caught in the act, or recognized, they are given a ticket for *Caught Being Good* or *Caught Being Smart*. Each Friday on the morning announcements, the names of the students caught that week are announced. Winners are also recognized in the school newspaper and on the cafeteria bulletin board. Winning students are rewarded with a certificate, candy bar, a T-shirt, and a chance to win *Freshman of the Quarter* and *Freshman of the Year* honors."

First-ever Freshman of the Quarter winners Mariah Godwin and Jesse Schein have a few words of wisdom to share for other students. "Be cooperative, try new things, meet new people, and get to know the school better," Mariah said. And she walks the talk! Mariah is in show choir, drill team, and drama club. Her plans include working with young children and becoming a teacher.

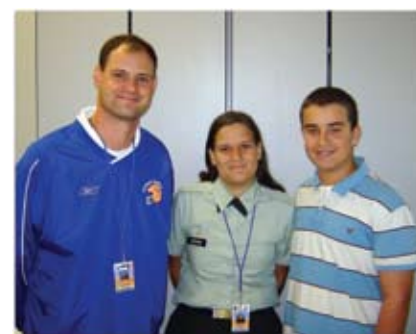
Jesse's philosophy is "Work hard and give it your best effort." His activities are quite varied and include science club, culinary club, gamers club, and band. The best part of his day is when he knows he was productive, did well, and learned a lot. Jesse's plans include earning a degree in criminal justice and working for the FBI.

"Already the results of the PBS program have been significant and measurable," said Career Advisor Keenan Wooten. "Absentee rates have dropped considerably, GPA's are on the rise, and office discipline referrals have decreased as much as 50%. Our goal for the PBS program is to include the entire school one day."

At Southeast's FLC, getting caught in the act is a good thing!



Mixing it up at a Freshmen Achievement Cookout this past spring. L-R: Aubriana Baptiste, Assistant Principal Rosa Daughtry, Miriah Bryant, Danyasia Thomas.



Freshmen Learning Center lead teacher Charlie Gage with Positive Behavior Support program quarterly winners Mariah Godwin and Jesse Schein.

JOBS



Teachers
Salary: \$38,500 – \$75,100
Workplace: classroom
Hours: school days



Clinical and school psychologists
Salary: \$60,200 – \$76,400
Workplace: schools, private practice
Hours: daytime



Criminal investigators
Salary: \$48,200 – \$69,100
Workplace: communities
Hours: varies



Smaller Learning Communities are defined as schools-within-schools that provide a personalized learning environment where students feel more connected and are actively engaged. The Freshmen Learning Center is one of the Smaller Learning Communities at Southeast High School.

PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: is your freshman student aware of graduation requirements? Talk to your child about life after high school. It's never too early to promote postsecondary education.
- Parents—positive reinforcement often changes behavior more effectively than negative reinforcement. What kinds of rewards can you think of that will best motivate your child to improve grades?
- "My goal for every student is to succeed and understand the value of education. We are providing our students with solid building blocks for a solid future." FLC lead teacher Charlie Gage. For further information about the SEHS smaller learning communities, contact Career Advisor Keenan Wooten at 941-741-3366, ext. 2016.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

- ★ Using the information in the article, decode these acronyms: SEHS, FLC, SLC, and PBS.

Answer: Southeast High School, Freshmen Learning Center, Smaller Learning Community, and the Positive Behavior Support Program.

What's on the WEB?

www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/southeast
www.ManateeACT.com
www.teacherscount.org/wannateach/how.shtml