

School Spotlight: How Lennard Creates a Positive Community with Schoolwide Points

Learn how Catrena Giles implemented learnings from an elementary school PBIS program to inform schoolwide culture changes for upper grades.

Spotlight Snapshot:

Here are three tips to recreate Earl J. Lennard High School's successful positive behavior program:

1. **Get teacher buy-in with staff training and workshops**
2. **Open a ClassDojo Store for student rewards**
3. **Host positive behavior parties throughout the year**

THE CHALLENGE

Rebuilding school culture after remote and hybrid learning

Earl J. Lennard High School, like countless schools across the country, struggled with student behavior after the pandemic. The school's plan cites that from 2022 to 2023 "having to acclimate to a full academic schedule was an adjustment" for Lennard's diverse student population.

Enter Catrena Giles, Climate and Culture Resource Teacher. At her previous position as an elementary school literacy coach, Ms. Giles saw firsthand how rewarding positive behavior could transform an entire school culture. Confident the behavior system would be as effective at Lennard, Ms. Giles created a plan to implement it at a highschool level.



**Earl J.
Lennard High
School**



**Hillsborough
School District**



Ruskin, FL



**2,400
students**

MEET THE LEADER

Catrena Giles went from scoring points on the court to championing positive behavior

Catrena Giles has spent seventeen years teaching in the classroom and managing student behavior—a journey that began when she led her first Sunday school class at church and fell in love with education.

Before her career in education, Giles was a basketball player and athlete, initially setting out to become a physical therapist at the University of South Florida.

Today, Giles assists scorers of a different kind. As the Resource Teacher for Climate and Culture, Giles ensures the school creates a positive learning environment, maintains a culture of high expectations, and celebrates shared values with a Points-based positive behavior program.

Ms. Giles collaborates with all stakeholders to implement ClassDojo—including students, teachers, families, administrators, and community leaders. With positive change this big, "it takes a village", she says.



On ClassDojo:

"I saw the excitement of the kids... It just reinforced positive behavior."

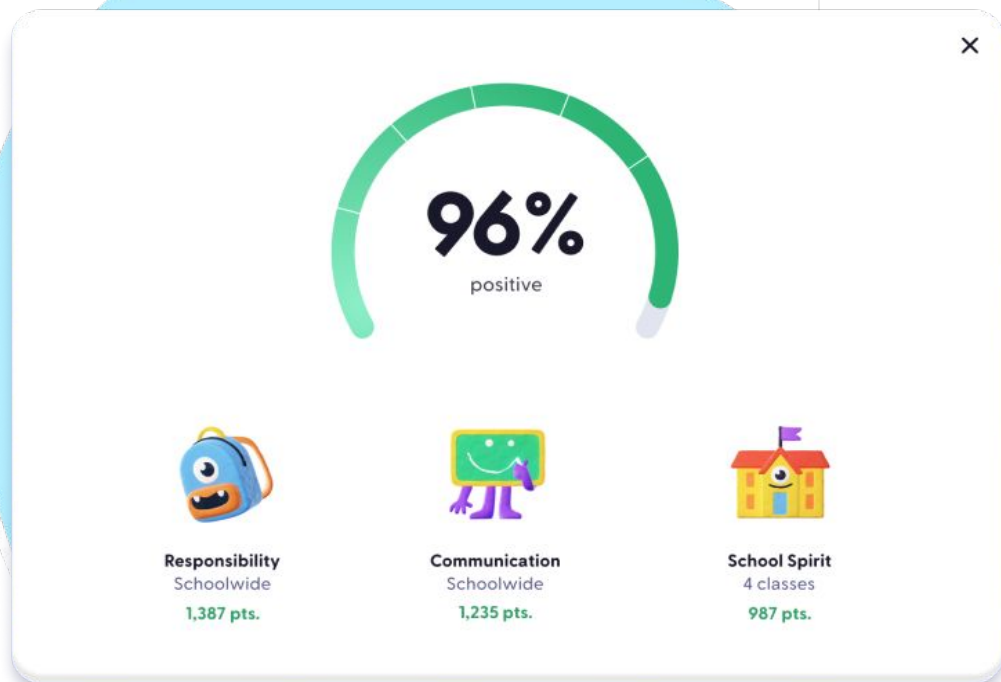
— **Catrena Giles**
Resource Teacher, Climate and Culture



THE CHANGE

Building a positive school community with ClassDojo Points

In Giles' elementary school role, the team implemented a Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program supported by ClassDojo **Points**. **Points** make it easy for staff across an entire school to celebrate the successes of all learners, and align the rewards with shared values and skill building—something she saw value in at higher grade levels, too.



The Lennard Longhorns values are based on being (1) Respectful, (2) Responsible, and (3) Safe. And the impact of those shared values on school improvement and student outcomes only keeps growing. “After two years of ClassDojo at our school we have gone from 50% participation to 70% participation with a goal of 90% or higher this year,” Ms. Giles states.

TAKEAWAY**3 tips for an even stronger school culture**

Here are three game-changing ways to recreate the successes of Earl J. Lennard High's positive behavior program:

1. Get teacher buy-in with training

Follow Ms. Giles' lead by regularly training teachers and "pushing into classrooms to assist with ClassDojo setup and awarding of Points." Bonus: you'll get valuable feedback as you do.

2. Open a ClassDojo Store for students

Positive behavior gets gamified. Lennard's ClassDojo store opens every Friday, and students shop using Points they've earned from their rewarded behavior.

3. Host positive behavior parties

Give students the opportunity to earn invitations to events. At Lennard, Ms. Giles and the team host four of these celebrations every school year.

After rolling out the positive behavior program, Ms. Giles quickly recognized that some standardization was needed to be able to cultivate it across the whole school. Her solution was a five-point cap on rewards for any of the three core values.

With ClassDojo's **Schoolwide Points**, introduced for the 2024-25 year, school leaders can easily standardize how many points are awarded to get a clear picture of overall school positivity. While teachers can still set and reward unique values "our administrators and other support staff will have access to awarding points beyond the classroom," says Giles—making it easier to shape the entire school culture and build community.

ClassDojo is now for your whole school. See how it can transform your community. 100% free, forever. See what's new at classdojo.com/sayhello