

THOMPSON FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DR. JERRY L. PAULI
SUPERINTENDENT
(406) 827-3323
FAX (406) 827-3020
jpauli@blackfoot.net

V. GAYLE MUNSON
DISTRICT CLERK
(406) 827-3323
gmunson@blackfoot.net

JENIFER CLINE
DIRECTOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION
(406) 827-3007
jcline@blackfoot.net

JENNIFER GUTHALS
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
(406) 827-3592
FAX (406) 827-0192
jguthals@blackfoot.net

TOM HOLLERAN
JUNIOR HIGH SUPERVISOR
(406) 827-3593
FAX (406) 827-0306
tholleran@blackfoot.net

DON W. JENSEN
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
(406) 827-3561
FAX (406) 827-9463
djensen@blackfoot.net

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Dear fellow administrators,

If you are considering using Love and Logic in your school, then you are like me: interested in helping your teachers spend less time on ineffective classroom management, and more time on effective classroom instruction. At the heart of Love and Logic is the belief that all children are unique, with unique needs; addressing these unique needs is the key to student achievement. Once teachers in your school feel empowered to manage their classrooms, meeting unique needs will no longer feel like a burden to them. Once you are freed up from spending all of your administrative time "putting out fires," you will be able to support teachers as an instructional leader.

Our school's transformation started three years ago, and is still on-going. Love and Logic is easy to implement school-wide, requiring only a few days worth of in-service for most staff to learn the Nine Essential Skills. We began by training those interested first; about 18 months into the training cycle, our staff was so excited by the changes, we decide to become Love and Logic District-wide. It took our school two years to truly become a Love and Logic school, including classroom management, training for all certified and classified staff, and school discipline policies. Our elementary school had over 60 suspensions annually before Love and Logic; in year two, we were down below 30; in year three of being a Love and Logic school, we have less than a dozen suspensions annually.

Love and Logic clears the most stressful issue for educators off the table, student discipline, opening the door for focus on other instructional issues. Most importantly, as your school learns and implements Love and Logic, teachers who use it will be experiencing the benefits of a system based on meeting unique needs. As teachers use Love and Logic strategies in their classrooms, they experience how effective it is to use research-based strategies with fidelity to address classroom management needs. They experience how this frees them up to be able to address the more challenging students' behavioral needs. They experience how, eventually, they get to spend more time on instruction and less time on classroom disruption. Imagine how this can create an environment where teachers are excited to design and implement improved instructional strategies and materials. Not to mention the fact that now that the principal and counselor are freed up from handling minor behavior problems because teachers are now effectively managing their classrooms, they can focus on students requiring strategic or intensive interventions such as small group social skill work or an Individualized Education Plan.

Due to Love and Logic, our staff is relaxed and positive when dealing with classroom management and discipline. As mentioned, our school has gone from 60+ suspensions annually to less than a dozen each year. We have staff who look forward to coming to work and students not only excited to come to school, but genuinely sad if they are suspended. We have parents who support us and even seek parenting advice from us. We have become a school truly capable of providing excellence in education, though, obviously, we still have plenty of opportunity for improvement. And we have achieved all of this in an isolated rural school district with few supporting services and a rapidly shrinking school budget, numerous staff retirements, and a school population of over 70% poverty.

I would unequivocally recommend experiencing Love and Logic's training for yourself and sharing it with your staff. The rewards go beyond better behavior for students; I feel our school, despite all of its apparent disadvantages, produces children who respect themselves and others and have the capability to make sound decisions. We have the effectiveness of the staff and strategies of Love and Logic to thank for such wonderful results.

Sincerely,



Jennifer E. Guthals
Principal, Thompson Falls Elementary
Where Everything Revolves Around Learning!
jguthals@blackfoot.net 406-827-3592