

When you reflect on happy childhood memories, chances are some of them involve a school experience. Perhaps it was special moments shared between friends, the loving guidance of a favorite teacher, the magic of first love, or recognition for an accomplishment. Whatever your memory is, it probably revolves around a sense of connectedness.

What you may or may not remember is a school staff that conscientiously taught students prosocial skills. Like other Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) schools, the Lincoln Heights Elementary School (LHES) community believes interpersonal skill development empowers students and enables them to become productive, fully prepared citizens for the 21st century.

Already a strong school community with a 47-year history, the staff sought new partnerships with child development specialists Kim Hughes and Dr. Joe Tooley. Staff and parents learned how intentional connections with students can positively

impact student achievement while also supporting meaningful relationships. These collaborative initiatives, combined with what we already know about developing the 'whole child,' contribute to a school culture where all members work together as a school family.

Ask prior LHES students to share a happy memory about their years at LHES, and they will likely tell you that they belonged to a school family that genuinely cared about their success AND their hearts!



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