



Dear Olathe Elementary Families:

As part of the Kansas State Department's Kansans Can Initiative and as part of the Olathe Public Schools commitment to the whole child, your student will be receiving instruction in Social Emotional Learning through the use of the Second Step Curricular materials.

The Second Step program teaches skills in the following four areas:

1. **Skills for Learning:** Students gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.
2. **Empathy:** Students learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.
3. **Emotion Management:** Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
4. **Problem Solving:** Students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Throughout the year, your student may have Home Links that go with several of the Second Step lessons. Home Links are simple, fun activities that can be completed together. They are a great way for families to understand what your student is learning.

If you have any questions about the Second Step program, please contact your building Principal. Thank-you for supporting your student in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brent Yeager
Executive Director of General Administration