**PBIS NEWS** HAWKS RISE is in HARMONY

Last school year Hawks Rise piloted the Sanford Harmony Social and Emotional Learning Program in some classrooms. Teachers engaged students in daily “Meet Ups,” which are short, interactive sharing opportunities, and in weekly “Buddy Ups” which pair students on a rotating basis to encourage collaboration and respectful communication.

Teachers who used the Harmony program agreed that these two activities improved classroom cooperation and communication and provided opportunities for students to step outside their friend group and get to know all their peers.

This year we are adding short lessons to strengthen the skills students learn and practice in Meet Up and Buddy Up activities. Students will learn about diversity and inclusion, empathy, communication, problem solving, and peer relationships and will engage in games and activities to extend their learning.

Why incorporate social and emotional learning (SEL) into our school day? Research shows that teaching our students to communicate and connect will empower them to become the best learners they can be and will support their academic success now and in the future. We all benefit when our students can understand and express their emotions constructively.