



# Podcast Discussion Guide for Instructional Staff



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## EPISODE 027

**Topic:** [Taking Care of the Whole Child](https://bit.ly/2l18oyQ) (<https://bit.ly/2l18oyQ>)

**Guests:** School Psychologist Simone Stainer and Principal Lino Rodriguez, both of John Young Elementary School

### **Suggested Discussion Questions:**

- Social emotional learning is more important than ever in 2020. What have you seen in your classrooms in terms of both the need and the results of what we've done in SEL thus far?
- The five competencies – self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making – are important. The lessons Lino at John Young describes are embedded into the school day, so it's not "one more thing" for teachers to do. Do you feel that way about how we do it at our school?
- We all had to complete the 5 hours of training on SEL this year. What did you get out of that? Where do you feel our school could do more?
- John Young incorporates an end of the school day meeting for teachers to check in with students to round out what they've done that day and make sure every student can end on a high note. The school built in that time to the school day. What did you think about when you heard that?
- Positive support systems are essential at every school. Are there any holes that you all see at our school that perhaps we haven't seen?
- The results that John Young Elementary have seen from implementing a deliberate SEL curriculum over the past few years, in terms of the threat reductions and discipline referrals, were pretty stark. The data shows the importance of giving kids models of how to cope, self-regulate and communicate. It may be too soon, but have you started to see some of those results here? If not yet, where do you think we can increase the focus to see some more of a return?
- As Lino says, behind the data is always a face. They can name students they have seen develop into more responsible people who are making better choices and applying coping strategies. Do

you see that in our students? If so, how can we recognize their efforts? If not, how could we start to foster that better?

- Every school's delivery of instruction is engaging and assessment informs instruction. The layer that John Young Elementary added to that is an intentionality of demonstrating kindness between staff members. I think we are a tight family, but how can we do that more openly so our students and their families see us role modeling the behavior we want in our students?
- It's not easy engaging every student during this pandemic, especially those learning from home. Giving every student a voice is important, and we know loneliness is rampant. What do you think we could do more for our LaunchED@Home students and their SEL learning?
- Lino's three questions:
  - Let's celebrate something we all feel better about now than may be a month ago.
  - What are you still worried about?
  - What can I help you with?
- I want to end this session by stating something that I hope each of you already know, but perhaps I don't say it out loud enough: I am proud of each and every one of you. You inspire me, you are the best team in the entire world. I see your hard work and I appreciate it every single day. Together, we can be what our students and their families need this year, but I want to be what you need in a school leader. Please, let me know if there's something you're worried about or if this conversation has sparked any ideas.

**Related Materials:**

[The Caring School Community](https://bit.ly/3m2TdEC) (<https://bit.ly/3m2TdEC>)

[Reimagining our Social and Emotional Learning Priorities](https://bit.ly/33gjjwr) (<https://bit.ly/33gjjwr>)

[Conscious Discipline](https://bit.ly/3m2BbCq) (<https://bit.ly/3m2BbCq>)

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