

School Story Takeover

Stories change the world. If we want to tell the stories of our public schools, we need to enter our learning environments, talk with students and educators, and publish the magic happening every day.

#schoolstorytakeover is a movement to promote storytelling in public schools.

Hosting a #schoolstorytakeover

1. Invite a group of visitors, school employees or students into a specific school as your Takeover Team.
2. Tell your teacher and school staff that you'll be hosting a School Story Takeover so they can be ready for visitors in classrooms.
3. Share information about the school with your Takeover Team.
4. Empower your storytellers to walk through the school, talk to students and staff, and share stories on social media with #schoolstorytakeover.

Classroom Walkthrough Tips

1. Look
 - Is the classroom a collaborative environment (i.e. students working in small groups, no lecture, no test)?
 - Is there a learning target listed on the board? What subject is being taught?
2. Listen
 - What's being taught? What are students learning? Listen to what's going on and let that guide your work in the classroom.
3. Consider
 - You don't want to become a distraction. Keep side conversations between other adults outside of the classroom.
 - Want to talk to a student about their learning or what they're doing? Go for it! Is the teacher free for a quick question? Go for it! Keep it relevant to what's happening in the classroom.
4. Capture
 - Get photos, get videos, capture what's going on.
 - If you have a photo or a video that identifies a student, know who to talk to and confirm they're on the approved list. **MOST** students are not, but always check.

Storytelling Tips

1. Character

- Great stories have great characters. Find interesting people and learn their stories.

2. Challenge

- What is the character trying to overcome? What is their motive or drive to overcome that challenge?

3. Visual

- A picture is worth 1,000 words and on Twitter, you only have 280 characters.

The CASPRA Contest

- Break into random teams of 3 (no same school district).
- Select one person from your team to be your “Tweeter” as this will be played on Twitter.
- The Tweet with the most engagement (retweets + likes = total engagement) 24 hours after the game ends will be our winner.
- You can post more than 1 Tweet but the top Tweet wins.
- We will also have prizes for best photo, best teacher story, best student story, and best overall story.
- You MUST include hashtag #schoolstorytakeover to be eligible.

Leander Middle School

Tagline: “We empower all to learn and lead.”

Mascot: The Tigers

Principal: Mark Koller

Social Media: @LeanderTigers #TheWestDen

Possible themes for stories in Leander Middle School:

- Capturing Kids Hearts
- No Place for Hate School, student clubs for inclusion for all
- Old school gets new look. New renovations (August 2019) bringing modern, large collaborative spaces available in the district’s oldest secondary school.