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LaCoste Elementary Hosts Leader in Me Symposium Tour



LaCoste Elementary hosted over 60 educators on Thursday, January 25th as part of the Leader in Me Symposium tour. Educators from around the country participated in the annual event, which allows other Leader in Me campuses to get ideas from schools nationwide.

Leader in Me is an initiative started by “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” creator Stephen Covey. The program aims to create leaders out

of students by transforming the school into a student-led environment, focused on each of the 7 habits.

After arriving at LaCoste Elementary via charter bus, educators were greeted by the Lighthouse Team, a group of students chosen for their excellence in leadership ability. The educators were then broken up into groups and assigned tour guides who were Lighthouse Team members.

The Lighthouse Teams led each group on a tour of the campus, pointing out that every wall was covered with student artwork. Numerous displays were set up as stopping points for the guides to give in-depth explanations. After the tours, the educators were able to visit classrooms to see learning in action, Leader in Me style.



Principal Natalie Benke explained that this was LaCoste Elementary’s first time hosting a Leader in Me Symposium Tour, an accomplishment she calls “humbling.” Benke went on to explain that the schools that host the site tours are usually either Lighthouse schools or are very close to becoming one. The Lighthouse distinction is given to schools that demonstrate a very high level of success in the program. Currently, of the 3,153 Leader in Me schools nationwide, only 355 have received the distinction. Benke hopes to bump that number up to 356 next spring when LaCoste Elementary comes up for Lighthouse review.

When asked how much time and energy went into the preparation for this event Benke said: “not much, we didn’t want to prepare the children for this visit, we just let them do what they always do”.

Congratulations LaCoste Elementary and Principal Benke for putting on an outstan
Leader in Me Symposium Tour! #MVProud





Symposium Tour

