



Lewis Britton Middle School

80 W. Central Ave. Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Principal - Mrs. Nanette Donohue • Phone - 408.201.6160

Dear Britton Families,

At Britton, we are committed to the safety of all our students and staff. Lately, we've seen an increase of students moving in large groups to areas where they think there might be an issue brewing between other students out of curiosity. However, such movement out of curiosity also adds confusion and energy, exaggerating issues and creating potentially unsafe conditions.

Group behavior is nothing new to middle schools, including Britton. As we've seen an increase in this behavior here at Britton, we are taking a moment to remind students of our expectations.

Group movements are problematic because large groups risk developing a life of their own where individual students may no longer feel a sense of personal accountability to make the right choice. Students having a conflict who are suddenly surrounded may feel pressure to act in a manner in which they might not normally act. Staff members are always stationed strategically on campus, and we act quickly to help a student who is having any sort of problem. However, when there is a large group of students forming, it can become more difficult for the staff member to intervene effectively. In addition, there are general safety concerns when large groups form, such as jostling for position and crowding students who were in the area before the group formed.

The expected behaviors:

- Students have fun and are able to have a relaxing and enjoyable 30-minute lunch break. During this time students can visit with friends, eat, engage in preferred activities. We have sports, games, and clubs during lunch. The library is usually open to students and many teachers provide small group tutoring during lunch.
- Students hanging out with friends in larger groups that are calm and seated.
- When walking, it is good practice for students to walk in pairs or triads.
- When standing around, it is good practice for students to be in reasonably sized groups, of 4-6 students. The following are enforceable rules in the interest of safety to be aware of:
 - Students may not move, in groups or alone, with the intent to confront or intimidate other students.
 - Students may not join a gathering crowd around a disturbance
 - Groups of students may not block other students' movement.

Generally speaking, students at Britton are well behaved, respectful, and helpful. From time to time, however, we need to take a step back, and reset expectations. We request that you support our efforts and have a discussion with your child about our concerns regarding 'group mentality' and why it is important to follow Britton's behavior expectations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nanette Donohue
Principal, Britton Middle School