



Alternatives to Seclusion

Andrea Engstrom - ISD 196



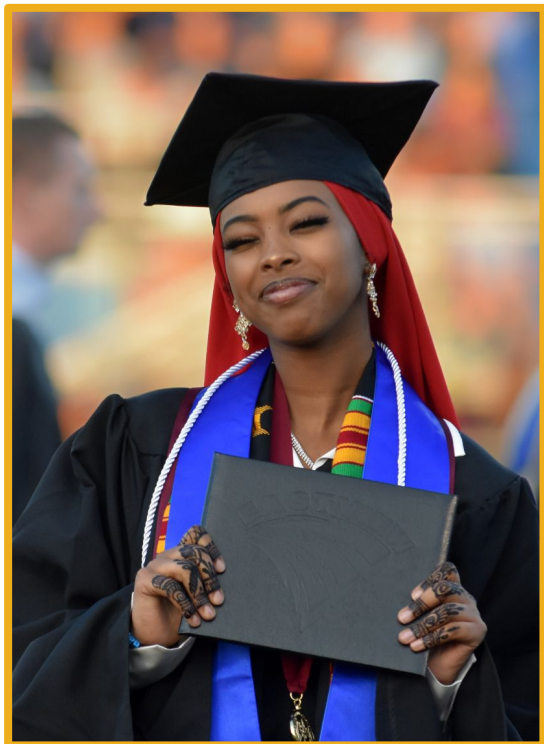
Finding Success for ALL Students

Environment and Supports





STRATEGIC ROADMAP



MISSION

Educating, developing, and inspiring our students for lifelong success.



VISION

- Developing the whole student and honoring diverse needs and cultures.
- Engaging students with opportunities in academics, arts and athletics.



CORE VALUES

Student-Centered • Empathy • Wellness • Integrity • Achievement
Collaboration • Community • Lifelong Learning



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Wellbeing • Achievement • Equity • Resources

BY THE NUMBERS

District 196 Today



38

BUILDINGS

4,400

STAFF

29,000

STUDENTS

115

**STUDENTS
SERVED IN
SETTING 4**

At Dakota Ridge School we serve less than 1% of total students in District 196. Many of these students live in group homes or are in and out of residential and correctional facilities.



“

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”

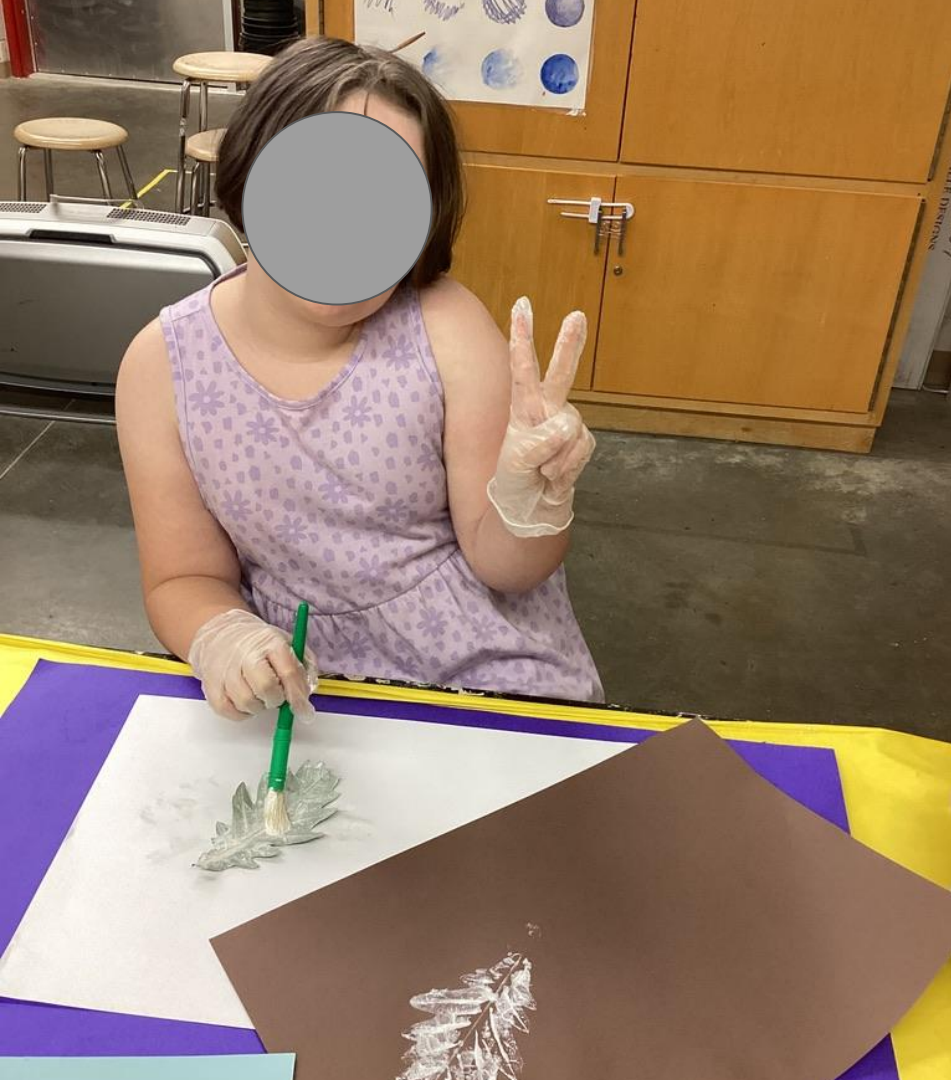
Dakota Ridge School

Who are we?



Setting 4 within a Comprehensive School District

- Grades K - age 22
- ALL Disability Categories
- Various levels of programming
- 115 students
- 39 Licensed Staff
- 45 Paraprofessionals



“

Dakota Ridge is a community engaged in developing the unique skills of individual students through creative programming and collaboration!

”

Why Ukeru?



Change in Legislation

- Increasing needs of the students we serve.
- Trauma informed response
- Staff expressing fear in keeping everyone safe
- Families expressing fear of not being able to serve all of our students through in-person learning.

Empowering Staff with More Tools

- More Trauma informed training for ALL staff
- No requirements of who to use Ukeru with. It is another tool in our continuum of support
- Team discussions around what will best support a student
- Dakota Ridge has GRIT
 - PBIS

Comfort Vs. Control

Our goal is to keep people safe while maintaining positive connections with students.

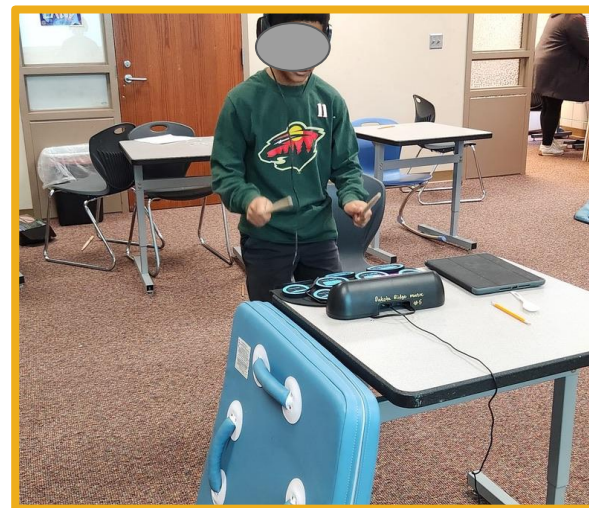
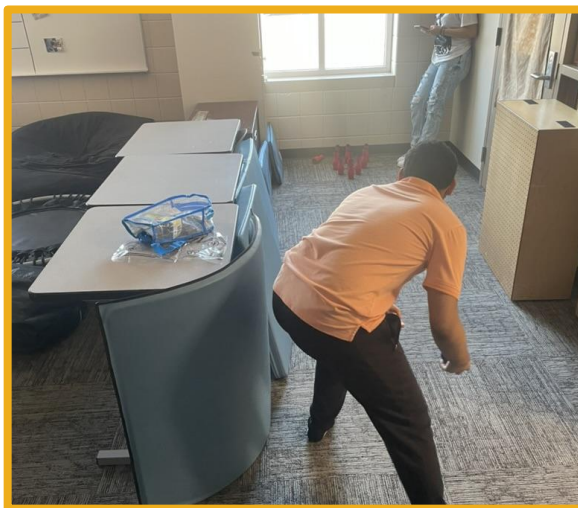


Connection before Correction

- Students get comfortable with the tools
- Non-threatening
- A natural part of our environment

Always there to keep us safe!

Not just for emergency situations!



Seclusion Over Time

Dakota Ridge School



135 students
60 incidents
With 14 students

22-23

23-24

Spring 24

**Summer
'24**

24-25

**Summer
'25**

25-26

134 students
88 incidents
With 28
students

Small team
trained in
Ukeru

All Staff
Trained

136 students
83 incidents
With 21
students

All Staff
re-trained

Exploring
implementation
in setting 3
programs

Impact of Seclusion in Schools

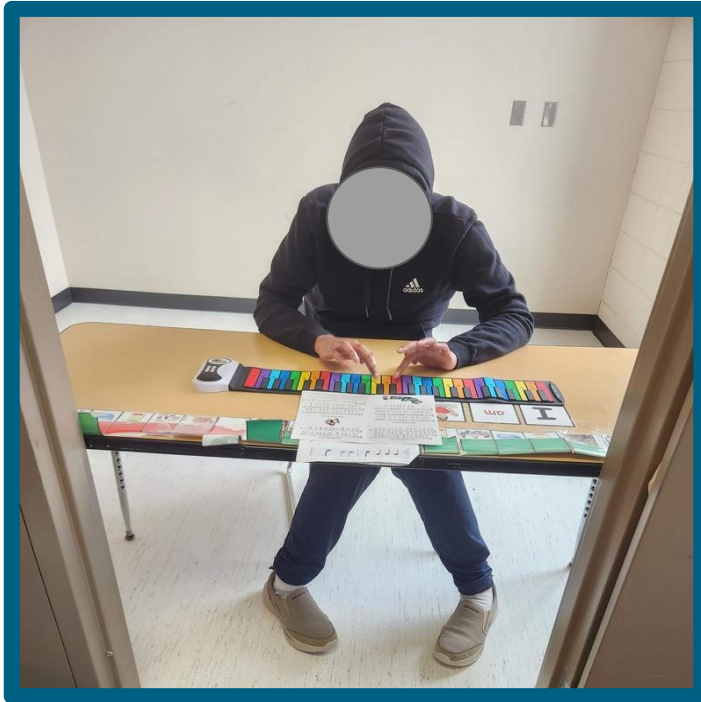
District Wide Data



YEAR	% of District 196 Total Students attending Dakota Ridge - Setting 4	% of District 196 Total Students Experiencing the Use of Seclusion	% of Dakota Ridge Students Experiencing Use of Seclusion	Staff Injury
22-23	.4%	.09%	21%	
23-24	.5%	.05%	23%	
24-25	.5%	.07%	15%	24

Physical Holding / Seclusion

District Wide Data



YEAR	Physical Holds	SECLUSION
21-22	321	95
22-23	385	88
23-24	453	60
24-25	382	83 *new data tracking tool.

Challenges

When serving the most impacted students.



Continued Proposals for Change

- Some of our youngest learners have endured significant physical trauma
- Understanding the time and place for seclusion
- Prioritizing the proactive work
- Staff getting injured and feeling helpless

Additional Training and Funding

- Additional required training for for all staff at Dakota Ridge School
- Equipment is costly
- Time
 - To plan
 - To debrief and adjust
 - To align teams

Words from a colleague:



Yesterday I was at DR to support in whatever capacity was needed and what I witnessed was nothing short of inspiring! I witnessed multiple staff come together to support students and each other during a significant crisis. Your teamwork absolutely shined and what I witnessed was nothing short of extraordinary.

Each of you demonstrated grace under pressure, **unwavering professionalism**, and an incredible amount of GRIT! You moved with calm, care, and clarity of purpose, always centering on safety and well-being. Staff communicated with each other and checked in to make sure everyone was okay.

I know the work is *daunting* and these moments are not easy for either our students or our staff. They require courage, compassion, and trust. So many staff responded to support without hesitation! I wish I could have recorded sound bites of staff communicating about students in a positive and supportive way in the time of crisis as an example to use with other teams. This would not have been the response in many locations. Please know we see you, hear you and are with you to support both yourselves and our students!!

Thank you for showing up for our students and for each other. You make a difference every single day, and your impact in challenging moments is profound!!



THANK YOU!

