



## Helping Students Start the Year Strong

As a new school year begins, it's the perfect time to implement CW-FIT strategies to help students transition smoothly, reinforce expectations, and create a positive classroom culture. Whether you're new to CW-FIT or a returning pro, we've got tools to support a successful year.

### Establishing Routines and Expectations

The first few weeks of school are critical for establishing routines and expectations.

- Clearly define 3–5 positively stated expectations (e.g., Follow Directions, Stay on Task, Use Kind Words).
- Post expectations where they are visible to everyone in the classroom.
- Teach, re-teach, and practice routines and expectations often

### Transitioning Back with Purpose

Many students may need time to readjust to structure, routines, and peer interactions.

- Begin each day by praising 3–5 students for positive behavior within the first 10 minutes.
- Use praise statements that name the behavior (e.g., "Thank you for raising your hand).
- Use pre-corrects before activities where you anticipate challenges (e.g., "Remember, our expectation is to stay in our seats)
- Keep group reinforcement fun and seasonal (fall-themed stickers, 5-minute brain breaks, extra school tokens).

### Classroom climate

Creating a positive classroom climate supports both academic and social success.

- Start the day with a warm, calm tone—students feed off your energy.
- Praise frequently and intentionally to build confidence and trust.
- Celebrate small wins as a class—cheers, compliments, or a fun chant help build unity.
- Create achievable and attainable goals to promote teamwork and shared responsibility.



### CW-FIT Tools

The CW-FIT website has refresher videos, reinforcer list, behavior expectation posters and other tools to help you start the school year: [cwfit.ku.edu](http://cwfit.ku.edu)

Looking for evidence-based professional development? Contact us today to learn how our CW-FIT team can support your school or district. [Cwfitku@ku.edu](mailto:Cwfitku@ku.edu)

## In the Spotlight



Dr. Anne-Marie Bixler-Funk is a PBIS Coach in the Olathe School District.

**What behavioral challenges were your teachers having?**

Teachers were having challenges with students yelling out and being disruptive during academic lessons.

**Why did you choose CW-FIT?**

Initially, our district was part of a CW-FIT research study, but now I love to use it as one of my coaching tools to offer teachers.

**What improvements did you see in your teachers' practice and/or students' success?**

Teachers were more focused on teaching expectations and on offering behavior-specific feedback (praise increased tremendously).

**Is CW-FIT a tool you would recommend to other schools? If yes, why? YES!**

It works! The teachers I support like it, and the students LOVE it.

## Upcoming CW-FIT Presentations

CW-FIT will be at the following conference. Follow us on Social Media for presentation dates and times @CW\_FIT\_KU

### October

National Forum to Advance Rural Education NREA  
Salt Lake City, UT. Oct 13th-15th

### November

Teacher Education Division TED  
Kansas City, MO Nov 11th-14th

### PA PBIS

Harrisburg, PA Nov 12th-14th

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education (MREA)  
Brainerd, MN Nov 16th-18th

### December

National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH)  
Orlando, FL Dec 2nd-4th