

It Turned Our School Around

Principal Mike Gee says, “Our scores have hit heights we only dreamed about.” Read how he did it in the **Going Beyond** folder for the *Epilogue* at EffectiveTeaching.com.

Mike Gee, principal of Joe Harrison Carter Elementary School in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, shared the following:

“We have implemented many procedures in the school and it turned our school around.

“We have a school-wide rendition of “Give Me 5.” (See page 185 in *The First Days of School*.) At a recent PTA meeting with a student program, I simply raised my index finger and said, “J.” EVERYONE in the gym of 300 people became absolutely silent within seconds. I felt like I was the “MOST TOGETHER” principal ever!

“I noticed a few parents looking around in amazement that everyone was silent . . . wondering what had just happened. After 20 some years, and my 9th as a principal, I LOVE what I do.

“While our school has always been a good place for kids and staff, I feel that our “Harry Wong” changes have been a Godsend for our school. Our procedures have become the routines by which we function.”

“Our scores have hit heights we only dreamed about.”

“The time invested in the first few days of teaching procedures and then practicing them is such a great investment and an ultimate time that improves instruction the other 170 days of the year. Our teachers and students are much happier as a result.

“The proof is in the test results. Our scores have hit heights we only dreamed about. Our academic index jump from 83 to 110 is not the result of one or two things. Thank you for **providing a culture** for our school that enabled our other efforts to be more successful.”