

THE JOY OF SCHOOLING

Over the past few years, educators across the country have adopted a philosophy inspired by a unique learning environment.

In this environment, people are fully present for the task at hand, respectful of themselves and others, and deeply in touch with each other's emotional needs. They take personal responsibility for the attitudes they choose each day. They regularly look for opportunities to make other people's day by acknowledging each other, not only for what they achieve but also for who they are. They are free to play and experiment with new ideas and they feel safe to make the mistakes that lead to effective learning.

In this environment, each member of the community has a say in the behavioral standards by which they live. All are committed to coaching each other to live a shared vision every day.

What is this unique learning community? It's a *fish market*.

In 1997 ChartHouse Learning observed the fishmongers of Seattle's World Famous Pike Place Fish in action. From these observations ChartHouse Learning created a video learning program with four easy-to-apply principles: Be There, Choose Your Attitude, Make Their Day, and Play. Originally intended for businesses, FISH! was initially viewed as a way to bring "fun" into customer service. But as more people saw and used FISH! in their workplace, they began to see it as a profound philosophy for the way we live our lives.

Educators, especially, saw FISH! as a philosophy that speaks to the heart of what education could and should be. FISH! translated the

words and experiences of fishmongers into simple behaviors and beliefs that also worked in schools and classrooms. Thousands of educators began using the language of FISH!— Be There, Choose Your Attitude, Make Their Day, and Play—to create safe, respectful, and fun classroom environments.

Soon educators called and e-mailed us to share how they were using FISH! Their stories were inspiring and insightful. But the amazing thing was the universality of their experiences. Though each school was distinct and served many age levels, there was an unmistakable synchronicity in how FISH! worked and how naturally it complemented proven educational strategies.

In 2003 ChartHouse Learning filmed at three schools: an elementary, intermediate, and high school. As we did with the fishmongers, we observed the schools' methods in action. We sat in classes and talked to educators and students. Then we created this Guided Journey to help others put these ideas into action.

As you go through this course, you will hear teachers talk about how they approach situations like those you face every day. Students just like yours share what inspires and works for them.

This learning program challenges some traditional beliefs about students and teaching, and provides many fresh approaches to help you increase your effectiveness.

This Guided Journey Will Help You:

- Forge more effective relationships with students and staff.
- Be fully present for your students' needs.
- Build an atmosphere in which people take responsibility for their attitudes and actions.
- Create Make Their Day moments that make everyone feel appreciated and encouraged.
- Nurture a true learning environment in which play is appropriate and productive.
- Develop clear expectations that are shared and owned by everyone in the class.
- Guide students to examine their behavior when it doesn't work and take responsibility for more functional choices.
- Create an atmosphere in which people can trust each other and feel emotionally safe.
- Work with your colleagues to maintain the energy of FISH!
- Speak a common language that increases understanding and unites purpose.

As an educator, there is no greater gift you can give than to prepare another human being for a fulfilling life spent learning and contributing to others. We hope you will find this course a valuable tool to achieve your professional and personal goals.

HOW TO TAKE YOUR GUIDED JOURNEY**Course Requirements:**

- *Guided Journey* DVD
- *Guided Journey* Book
- At least one viewing of the video *FISH!*

The course has 10 units, each of which may take from a half hour to one hour. While it is possible to go through the course by yourself, we highly recommend that you experience it with a teammate, a larger group, or as part of faculty meetings.

Conversations are the core of FISH! Heartfelt conversations are essential to help us sustain, renew, or change a culture. FISH! invites educators to bring their hopes, dreams, and challenges to the vital conversation about what we want to create in *our* schools.

Learning or using FISH! is not a linear process. But to make it easier to follow, we have designed this course so that each unit builds on the one before it. You can complete the course in as little time as you like, but it's important to take time to reflect on each section and apply it to your life. That doesn't happen in a day or week; it's an ongoing process. We recommend one unit every one or two weeks.

In your Guided Journey book, read the short section preceding the video segment for that unit. It offers suggestions for what to look for as you watch the video, and helps frame the subsequent discussion and activities.

You'll find the Guided Journey DVD on the last page of this book. It is made up of 10 units, each of which includes interviews with teachers and students, as well as actual classroom footage. The different units are clearly marked by name and number.

When you're done watching each video unit, turn back to the book. Each unit of the book includes selected quotes from the video—and pertinent quotes from footage that did not appear in the video.

Each unit also includes a number of questions and activities designed to spark and guide conversations. Discuss, disagree, argue—just talk about it! We've included plenty of ideas, so if you find yourself engaged in stimulating conversation, please don't feel that you need to abandon the discussion in order to finish every activity immediately.

At the end of each unit are suggested action plans—beliefs or behaviors to observe and consider during your day, or a strategy to try with your students or colleagues. It may mean taking a risk, bringing a fresh outlook to well-worn routines, or becoming aware of what you're doing now and deciding if it's in line with what you want to be.

After you've tried some of the exercises you can think about what worked and what didn't, how it felt, and whether or not you want to try it again. The key is that no one can live FISH! for you. As the fishmongers say, "You have to regenerate it every day."

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We owe incredible thanks to the schools where we filmed and to the educators and students who opened their classrooms and their lives to us. They are the true experts who, like you, bring learning to life every day.

Chaska High School

David St. Germain (st@restorativelearning.com) and Sally Bulleit (sal@restorativelearning.com) are pioneers in using The FISH! Philosophy concepts to build more effective teacher-student relationships. They played a vital role in helping ChartHouse Learning bring FISH! concepts to the classroom and ChartHouse Learning thanks them for their contributions to the FISH! For Schools Curriculum. David and Sally have been teachers for over 30 years. David is the Professional Development Coordinator at Chaska High School and teaches English and Speech. Sally is the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Chanhassen Elementary and Bluff Creek Elementary Schools. David and Sally also train educators in Restorative Learning techniques and instructional strategies.

We also want to thank the staff of Chaska High School in Chaska, Minn., especially Dr. Jim O'Connell, principal; Dr. Barbara Cameron, vice principal; Jason Pelowski, math and media productions teacher; Tom Winn, math teacher, and all the students who participated. Their amazing display of openness and honesty was invaluable to the project.

Gage Elementary School

When first grade teacher Chris Streiff called us to share the amazing transformation that had occurred in her Rochester, Minn., classroom, ChartHouse Learning was not yet focused on education. But when Chris called a year later, we decided we must film her in action. Though Chris was then training other teachers, we recreated the activities she had conducted with the same students she had taught the year before. Special thanks are due Ann Clark, principal; Kevin Ewing, vice principal; Julia Squires, media specialist; and Al Mannino, director of marketing for Home Federal Savings Bank in Rochester, who introduced the school to FISH! Thanks also to teachers Kristie Beck and Shayna Woodburn for allowing us to film in their classrooms and to the boys and girls of Gage Elementary School.

Avon Intermediate School

Looking to film at a middle or intermediate school, ChartHouse Learning learned about Avon Intermediate in Avon, Ind. We took our cameras primarily to watch Principal Scott Raftery conduct a back-to-school workshop for staff using FISH! It was a great program. But we also encountered an incredibly energetic and committed staff which prompted us to return a few weeks later to record their experiences with the students. Special thanks to Scott, Matt Prusiecki, vice principal, and the entire faculty, especially teachers Julie Howard, Chris Kates, and Melissa Lodoen, band instructor Rick Wagoner, and the boys and girls of Avon Intermediate School.