We encourage parents to use positive support for behavior in the home.

* Take time to teach your children exactly what you expect them to do. Remember that you should tell them the correct way to do things. Avoid using the word, “Don’t” and use “Do” instead.

* Be a strong role model for behavior. Your children learn by watching how you act. They will emulate your actions and words. Have high expectations for yourself and your children.

* Reward your children when they make good choices. Rewards do not have to be prizes or toys. Here are some ideas for non-tangible rewards.
  - Take a special walk together.
  - Take turns reading to each other.
  - Plan and eat a healthy snack together.
  - Go to a park and play together.
  - Have a family movie night.
  - Visit the library to check out books.
  - Play ball or another outside game.
  - Have a family game night at home.
  - Praise your child with positive and loving words.
Behavior Matrix
The behavior matrix is a detailed description of expected behavior in each setting of the school. For example, in the cafeteria it is polite to say “please” and “thank you.” It is respectful to clean up your area. The matrix will be posted in classrooms, around school and sent home.

Teaching Expectations
Throughout the school year, students will be taught how to behave according to the four expectations. Teachers will help students learn what the expectations “look” and “sound” like in every setting during the school day. These lessons will be re-taught and reinforced throughout the school year, and become a regular part of our instructional program.

PBS Recognition
Acknowledging and reinforcing positive behavior is one of the best ways to change inappropriate behavior and encourage appropriate behavior. At GAE each student will earn dolphin dollars for meeting behavior expectations. When goals are met, students will enjoy taking trips to the PBS School Store as well as participating in periodic school-wide celebrations. We will also be having family nights and inviting you to celebrate your student’s success with us.

Behavior Tracking Sheets
Even with clear expectations and positive reinforcement, sometimes children will misbehave.

To address inappropriate behavior, a Behavior Tracking Sheet has been implemented. Discipline issues are divided into major and minor infractions. A minor/major description chart is available.

- Major infractions are issues that result in office time. Parents/guardians will always be notified by the principal or teacher about major infractions.
- Minor infractions are behaviors that are disruptive to the learning environment, but are handled by the supervising staff member. If a child receives three minor infractions in one week, it becomes a major infraction and the principal will address the behaviors and parents/guardians will be notified.

When a child repeatedly receives minors or majors, parents / guardians, teachers, support staff and the principal will meet to build an effective behavior intervention plan for that child.