



Challenge



How can we incorporate agency, a sense of belonging, and a culture of connection into our SLC classes?

Taking Action

In order for our SLC classes to incorporate agency, a sense of belonging, and a culture of connection, we must first “walk a mile” in our staff and teachers shoes. This would allow us to gain a different perspective of what they endure each day.

“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Registrar (Mrs. Lezlie)

- Mrs. Lezlie is our Registrar and she has to do many things, she wears multiple hats at once. She has to know everything about everyone. For example, Mrs. Lezlie has things that date back to when we were in preschool.
- She remembers many different codes for each student and their needs.
- She may have a little mess, but it’s surprisingly very organized.
- At first it felt overwhelming because of how much she has to do and remember, but after going through the experience myself, she’s practically wonder woman.
- Mrs. Lezlie works with a bunch of different people and she has to be professional, even when the other person is being unprofessional.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

English Teacher (Ms. Vega)

- Our English teacher Ms. Vega teaches more than one class, so she has to have multiple lesson plans.
- I felt positive energy and very welcomed the whole time I was shadowing her, and the laughter in the classroom just kept on growing.
- I never noticed how many students go to Ms. Vega and talk to her about their personal life outside of school because they trust her. Even when it is heartbreaking, she keeps the same positive attitude throughout the whole day.
- She listens to every student and keeps a professional attitude all of the time.
- She wants to learn everything about her students so she can get to know them.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Front Receptionist (Ms. Amy)

- Ms. Amy was constantly letting late students into the school, and every time this happened she had to stop what she was doing to let them in.
- Ms. Amy tried to refill the printer but there was a larger problem so she had to call the printer company to schedule a day to get it looked at.
- Ms. Amy is also in charge of the attendance for the whole school. This means that any student that shows up late has to be manually entered into the system. She also has to call all of the parents of students who did not show up to school.
- I thought Ms. Amy just let people in and acted as the nurse when she needed to, but she does more than I could ever imagine. She takes on so much each day it is truly insane.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Construction Teacher (Mr. Salas)

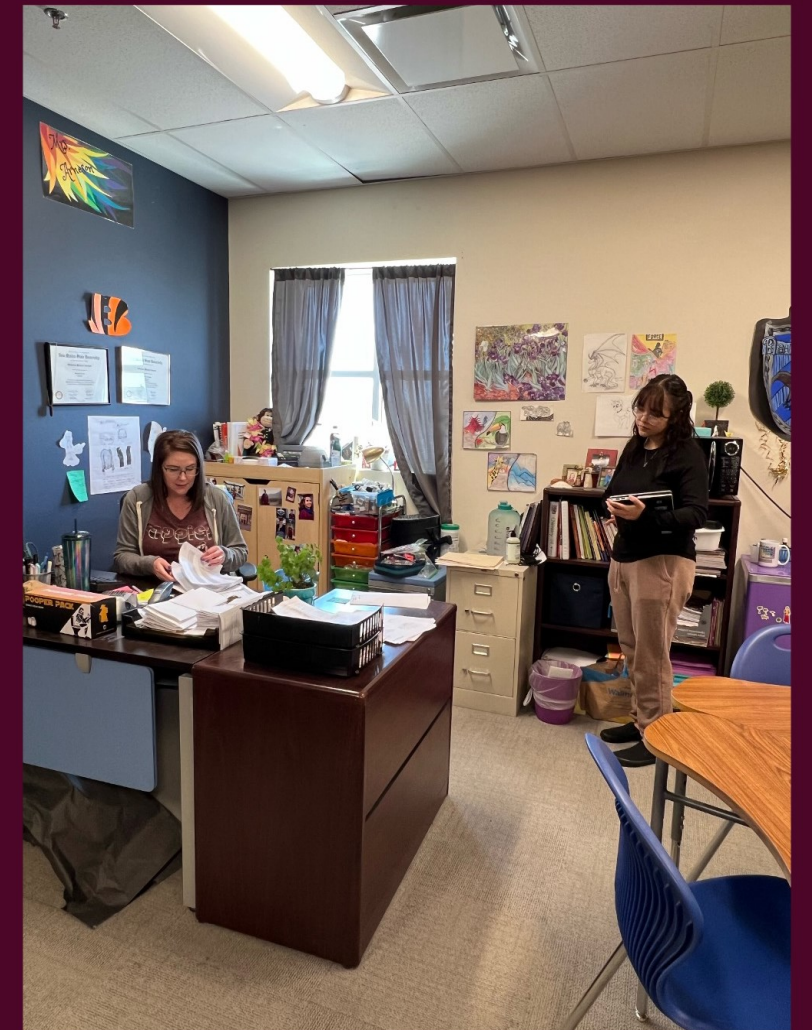
- Mr. Salas is very energetic and interactive with the students. He makes sure every student is involved and working, even if a student does not want to participate in the activities.
- Mr. Salas enjoys making new projects for students. He also likes when students share their own ideas for projects, & he’s happy to help them bring those ideas to life.
- He constantly states how he truly appreciates each of his students and the work that they do.
- It was nice to see him treating every student with respect.
- I originally thought that Mr. Salas just had fun making projects all day, but in reality he cares about the students interests and education just as much.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Science Teacher (Mrs. Arneson)

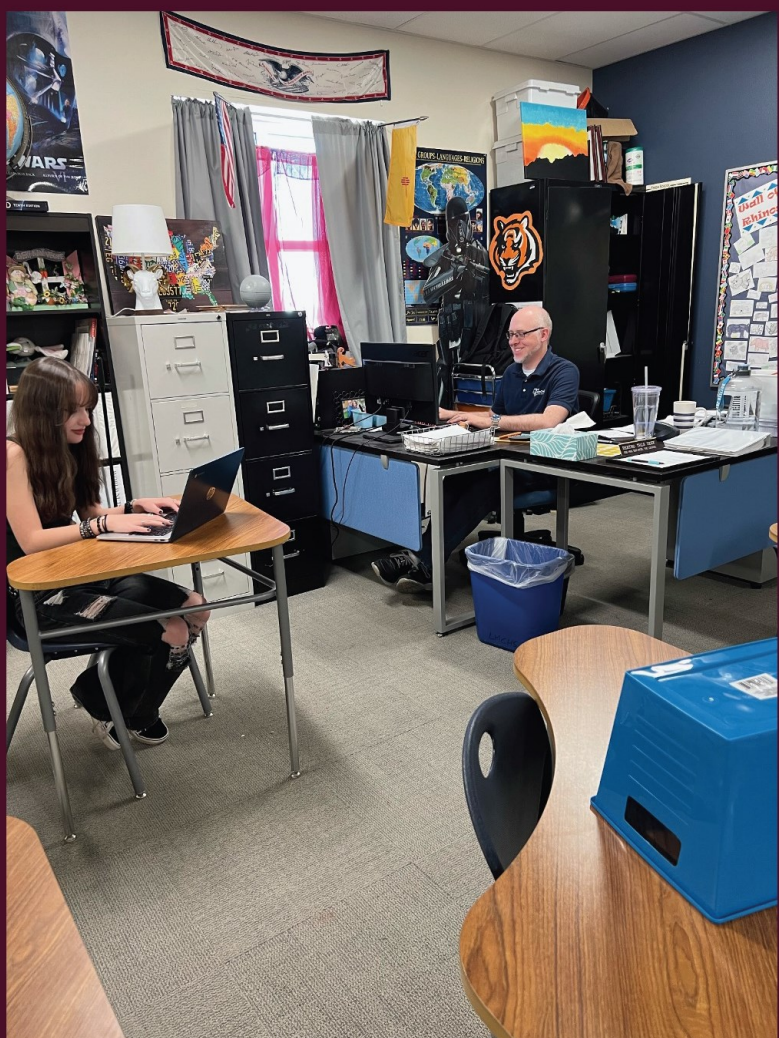
- In Mrs. Arneson’s class I learned why she is so strict; she likes to push her students to do their best.
- She knows how strong her students are and she knows how much they can take on.
- Although she is strict, that’s how she shows her students she cares deeply about them.
- All of her rules in her class are a way to prepare her students for future jobs.
- Mrs. Arneson is welcoming to all her students.
- She communicates very well with them, especially if they’ve been absent and need help with an assignment.
- When there is a student on their phone and not paying attention, she reminds them kindly to put them away, because their education is more important.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

History Teacher (Mr. Arneson)

- Mr. Arneson engages his students successfully by using different methods to present his teaching, such as taking notes with the class, slideshow presentations, and showing informational videos.
- Mr. Arneson creates and enforces policies for his classroom to ensure students get the best out of their education.
- I never realized how much work went into creating his presentations and assignments for each of his classes.
- He takes a more authoritative approach to teaching, however his light-hearted personality helps to bring balance to his classroom.
- To create a more connected classroom, he greets and farewells his students, cracks jokes, and encourages his students to work with one another before going to him.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Custodian (Laura)

- While I was shadowing Laura, I saw how she lights up other peoples day. She is a ray of sunshine when she’s with others and on her own, and just an overall amazing person to be around.
- She helps her coworkers with anything they need.
- Laura is someone every student and faculty member loves to talk to. She knows what to say and how to help them solve anything they’re having trouble with.
- Although the girls bathroom can be disgusting, Laura doesn’t take it out on anyone. However, she does let it be known that it gets tiring picking up other people’s mess (that shouldn’t be there).
- Laura’s job allows her to work at her own pace which helps her to connect with others.
- I never realized the struggles Laura goes through in a day. Although she undergoes a lot of stress, she maintains her professionalism.



“A Mile In Your Shoes”

Health/P.E. Teacher & Athletics Coach (Sidney Robinson)

- Coach Rob teaches 5 different P.E. classes and 1 health class.
- What surprised me the most about him is that he gives up his lunch to work with students who want to be more active during that time.
- He maintains a positive attitude even when he’s having a bad day.
- Coach Rob shows how much he cares for his students by making sure that they’re happy and comfortable.
- His job gives him the opportunity to teach students how to properly work out.
- His infectious personality makes him easy to work with.
- At the end of each term, he provides a stress-free day for all students by setting up games for them.



“A Mile in Your Shoes”

Custodian (Danny)

- Part of Danny’s job is to serve the students lunch everyday. After he is done serving lunch, he checks on the students at the basketball court.
- At the end of the day he goes to each classroom and throws away the trash.
- Danny keeps track of the food that is delivered to the school.
- One thing that I noticed about Danny was his kindness towards the students. Most of the custodians I’ve come across don’t interact with the students the way he does, so it’s nice to see him brighten up people’s day.
- Danny doesn’t let the littlest things get to him.
- At first I thought Danny’s job was more laid back, but he does much more than just serving lunch and cleaning.

