



## Vicarious “Field Trip” to Your School

**Directions:** The following activity is designed to help you assess the culture of your school. First, think about the core values that are conveyed in your school mission and beliefs. Pick out key words or phrases then record them in the top box. Next make four imaginary trips to your school. Instructions for completing each stop are provided in the four “stop” boxes.

**What are the key words/phrases in your school mission and core beliefs?**

**First Stop:** Do an imaginary walk through your school and grounds. What do you see around you that conveys the school culture? Is the culture you want “consistent and pervasive” during the walk? Do the physical observations and representations match words and phrases cited from the mission and core beliefs? Explain. (Reference *Shaping School Culture*, p. 69-84)

**Second Stop:** Do a “fast forward” auditory and visual tour of the school’s major ceremonies and celebrations (from opening of school to closing). Which key words from the school mission and core beliefs get the most attention? Which get little attention at these events? How would you change the ceremonies and celebrations to have them better aligned with the mission and beliefs? (Reference *Shaping School Culture*, p. 29-48)

<p><b>Third Stop:</b> Now, observe your own leadership behavior during the school year. What examples of symbolic leadership can you cite that convey your school beliefs? When do you communicate as a “poet?” What would you change about your behavior to shape culture? (Reference <i>Shaping School Culture</i>, p. 107-134)</p>	<p><b>Fourth Stop:</b> Finally, observe people interactions throughout the school year—adult/adult, adult/student, and student/student. How would you characterize the interactions among each group? What behaviors are in line with the school mission and core beliefs? What behaviors are in conflict? (Reference <i>Shaping School Culture</i>, p. 87-105)</p>
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### Priorities for Change

Now that you have completed the four steps in your virtual field trip, what areas of strength do you want to emphasize? What changes would you like to see in how you influence culture?

Strengths to Emphasize	Changes to Make
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