



Appleton Area School District

BULLYING

The Appleton Area School District and the staff of Highlands/Odyssey are committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment that allows all students to maximize their learning potential. The Board of Education and staff consider bullying to be detrimental to the health and safety of students and disruptive to the educational process.

What is bullying?

Bullying includes aggressive and hostile behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power between the bully and the bullied. This behavior may include but is not limited to physical and verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats or intimidation, social exclusion and isolation, extortion, and the use of computer or telecommunications to send messages or images that are embarrassing, slanderous, threatening, or intimidating. Bullying may also include teasing, put-downs, name calling, rumors, false accusations, and hazing.

What are students learning about bullying and prevention?

The elementary social skills curriculum (cool tools) provides students guidelines for school wide expectations and social responsibility outside the classroom. Students are taught the Stop/Walk/Talk response to disrespectful behavior and practice the skills through role play. Stop/Walk/Talk is a three step response students use to eliminate disrespectful behavior themselves and seek help from an adult if necessary. Students are also taught how to appropriately respond when they are a bystander or the aggressor and practice these skills in groups. The groups address the issues involved with gossiping, inappropriate remarks, and cyber-bullying in each of the roles. The school counseling curriculum also provides strategies and tools for students to learn and use about expectations and social responsibility inside and outside the classroom. The curriculum is proactive and preventative in its focus. It assists students in acquiring and using life-long learning skills.

Are staff members trained?

Staff members have participated in Bullying Prevention training. This training focuses on pre-correction of inappropriate behavior, rewarding the use of the three step response, and responding to reports of disrespectful behavior. It is well known that schools are successful when they help children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. For this to happen, it is imperative that we have a safe environment that is supportive and conducive to growth. By setting forth clear social and behavioral expectations, it is our goal to create an atmosphere for learning. Lessons taught have also been infused within the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) framework that is part of the school's character education program.

What can parents do?

To be most effective, bullying prevention efforts are the shared responsibility of parents, staff, and community. Parental pride and involvement in the school sets a positive example for children. As adults, we can:

- *Teach self-respect.*
- *Discuss the seriousness and negative effects of bullying behaviors.*
- *Work together with your child's school to develop a consistent approach to bullying behaviors.*
- *Set a good example. Children learn more by actions than from words.*

What activities are staff and students doing at Highlands/Odyssey to learn more about anti-bullying?

- *TOPS Rodeo – taught students the matrix and expectations of our school through a station rotation (inside and outside).*
- *TOPS Cool Tools – social skills taught weekly by our staff to all students in addition to guidance.*
- *TOPS Tickets to recognize students' positive behaviors.*
- *A team of staff attended the PBIS summer institute and shared back with full staff the information learned*
- *District and School Staff development opportunities*
- *Information shared with families during open house on TOPS school wide Expectations.*

The Appleton Area School District will recognize and support anti-bullying efforts by participating in **Celebrate Bullying Awareness Day ~ Wednesday, September 28, 2011.**

What is the AASD's policy on bullying?

www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/policies.html

Click on -- Series 400: Students and go to Policy 443.71, Bullying and Harassment

Highlands/Odyssey staff members are committed to creating an emotionally, socially and physically safe environment while fostering positive relationships with staff, students and families.

Sincerely,

Kristin Comerford
Principal