



# Appleton Area School District

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Houdini Elementary School

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## BULLYING



The Appleton Area School District and the staff of Houdini 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 curriculum provides a two-tiered set of skill-building lessons where students practice taking action to report bullying, caring for both the target and bully without accepting the bully's behavior, and talking to adults who can stop the bullying. The middle school curriculum adds skills related to establishing and explaining rules against bullying and recognizing that bullying must be eliminated to have a safe, effective, and high achieving school. At the high school level, all staff are a resource promoting a positive school climate. This is accomplished through many activities such as group lessons with a school counselor, school assemblies, Link Crew, and High School Peers, to name a few. Student retaliation against another student for reporting an incident of bullying will not be tolerated.

### ➤ Are staff trained?

Several staff members at Houdini have completed the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* training. It is a research-based universal school-wide effort that includes school, classroom, and individual level components. *Sticks N' Stones* is a curriculum that includes several lessons and a game show. It discourages bullying in all forms, while increasing the social skills that improve interaction among students and between teacher and student. Houdini Staff members are excited to begin full implementation of a proactive Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports-PBIS framework this fall. 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.



### **What activities are staff and students doing at Houdini to learn about anti-bullying?**

Students at Houdini participate in a variety of activities throughout the school year related to bully prevention. During four different points throughout the year, students and staff participate in a School-Wide Expectation Rodeo. During the rodeo, staff teaches expectations for the playground, hallways, restroom, cafeteria, etc within the context of these environments. Staff instruct students on appropriate behavior in the classroom and how to interact cooperatively in all school settings. Students can earn "SWOOPS" tickets which staff hand out when they catch students being safe, respectful or responsible.



During the first week of school, all staff, students, and even Harry Hawk took the Hawk's Honor Pledge to be Safe, Respectful and Responsible throughout the 2010 -2011 school year. **Celebrate Bullying Awareness Day – Wednesday, September 22, 2010.**

### **➡ 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 is the AASD's policy on bullying?**

[www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/policies.html](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/policies.html)

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

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

Sincerely,

*Tiffany Frerks*

**Houdini Elementary Principal**