



Appleton Area School District

Jefferson Elementary School & Fox River Academy

Tiffany Frerks, Principal

BULLYING



The Appleton Area School District and the staff of Jefferson and Fox River 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 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.

➡ Are staff trained?

Staff at Jefferson and Fox River Academy 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. In addition, staff at Jefferson and Fox River Academy are excited to begin full implementation of a proactive behavior support system, (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports-PBIS) 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 Jefferson and Fox River Academy to learn about anti-bullying?

Students at Jefferson / Fox River Academy 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 Parade. During the parade, 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 "Caught in the Act" tickets which staff hand out when they catch students being safe, respectful or responsible.



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Jefferson and FRA's PBIS System has 5 components:

- **Behavioral Expectations Matrix** - Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe
- **Cool Tools** - Each Tuesday morning, all students within both Jefferson and Fox River Academy will be taught social skills, problem solving and coping strategies, skills to work successfully within collaborative groups, respect for self, others and the environment, responsibility and safety. Lesson plans used to teach students the Behavioral Expectations on Tuesday mornings
- **Caught in the Act Tickets** - Acknowledgment/Reinforcement System
- **Office Discipline Referral Forms** - ODR's
- **Celebrations** - Held during six different points throughout the school year
- **Celebrate Bullying Awareness Day -- Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

➤ 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

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

Jefferson and Fox River Academy 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

Jefferson and Fox River Academy Principal

