

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Over the past seven years I have approached bullying, harassment and intimidation in the following way:

1. Upon my being made aware of a problem, all students involved were brought into the office and were given a written statement that outlined their restrictions:
 - a. No passing rumors or saying anything that would be hurtful
 - b. No touching/threats/bothering belongings/talking to or about person negatively; including by electronic means (Facebook/MySpace/text messaging/etc.)
2. Each was given a chance to ask questions or make statements in regards to whatever their situation was in order to clarify the problem and clear the air.
3. I clearly outlined what procedures are to be followed if there is a violation:
 - a. Do not respond to violation (or you will bear equal consequence)
 - b. Observe who witnessed violation and come directly to office and let me know
 - c. Bring in copy of Facebook/MySpace/text message/etc.
 - d. I will investigate but must be convinced of violation before disciplining.
4. The consequences of violating the policy are clearly stated:
 - a. Minimum: two day out-of-school suspension (usually more)
 - b. Maximum: recommendation for expulsion (normally for more than one violation)

Unfortunately, your child has been given one of these written statements by me. (S)he may be the victim or may be the cause of another student being upset. Many times there is some fault with each student and often times it is a third party who is "sparking the flames" without any face to face confrontations ever having occurred. **Whichever is the case, please have a discussion with your child. Most parents are more aware of the historical need to address bullying (e.g. Columbine student deaths; work place consequences; etc.).** We are here simply for an education. The "drama" must disappear. With nearly 1200 teenagers in a very small area for seven hours a day, we cannot allow any form of harassment/bullying to take place.

Please note that, as I state to each student, now that this has been documented it doesn't matter where a violation occurs. By law, anything that interferes with the educational process is a violation. When continued harassment occurs outside of school, it comes back in as emotional baggage that interferes with a student's ability to concentrate on his/her studies.

We will do everything in our power to protect your child from such actions so that attendance at school is not something that causes fear, anxiety or even discomfort. We appreciate your help in this matter and value our partnership with parents in preparing their children for a meaningful future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 889-4012.

Sincerely,

Marlowe Mullen
Assistant Principal

Date:

(student) and (student) have been involved in a situation that has become bothersome to one or both of them. They now understand that, under State Law and School policy, any continuation of this will fall under the harassment, intimidation, bullying policy and is open to significant consequences.

This includes talking to the person, or others, about any situation that can be construed as "rumor" or is hurtful to another person. It also includes any physical touching, threats, bothering the belongings of another or talking to or about the person in a negative way, including by electronic means.