

HOMECROFT ELEMENTARY



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Dear Students and Parents:

Students, we would like for you to sit down with your parents to read through this letter together. Please take some time to discuss as a family. Research shows that the most important ingredient for stopping bullying in schools is the need for everyone to have a clear understanding of what bullying is and looks like. Please make sure that you read the complete [Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#) for the complete information regarding bullying and discipline.

What is Bullying?

"Bullying" (per IC 20-33-8-.2) means overt, unwanted, **repeated** acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other targeted student **and create** for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

1. places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
2. has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
3. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
4. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. It includes hitting/kicking/punching, spitting, tripping or pushing, taking or breaking someone's things, and making mean or rude hand gestures.

Verbal bullying involves saying mean things. It can include teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threatening to cause harm.

Social/relational bullying involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying involves telling other children not to be friends with someone, leaving someone out on purpose, spreading rumors about someone, or embarrassing someone in public.

Electronic/written communication involves cyber-bullying, collective or group note writing, any bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices (computer, cell phones). Considerations in determining

It is important to note that all staff members will report any possible bullying allegations to the Administration. Administration will investigate the incidents and handle the situation appropriately.

Our students have been instructed that it is everyone's responsibility to stop bullying at school. All students have been asked to make sure that they report any bullying incidents that they see, hear about, or that they are the victim of during school and/or riding the school bus. Parents, please do your part and encourage your child(ren) to do their part as well.

What to cover with your child:

- Sometimes our classmates or people may choose to be unkind to us by:
 - Teasing
 - Putting others down
 - Being bossy
 - Trying to make you do things you don't want to do
 - Bothering your learning time
 - Intimidating with words and/or threats of physical acts
- If someone is bothering or being unkind to you over and over by:
 - Stepping on your heels
 - Getting into your personal space
 - Keeping you from learning
 - Touching/Poking/Bumping/Kicking
 - Teasing/Name Calling
- Then you need to carry out the following strategies:
 - Be a problem solver and handle it yourself: (using a strong voice) *"Please stop! You are bothering me when you _____."*
 - Use an "I" statement: *"I feel _____ when you _____ because _____. Please stop!."*
 - Make a request: *"I request that you stop _____ because _____."*

IF POSSIBLE REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THE SITUATION.

When do I report that person (bullying) to an adult?

When the person continues bothering you and you have tried to be a problem solver. If you have done that and the behavior continues then you have permission to get help from an adult. Students and parents can report bullying directly to the school by calling 317-789-3500 or electronically by visiting <http://www.perryschools.org/he/for-students/bullying-information/>

(please sign and return bottom portion)

SIGN AND RETURN

We have discussed with our child, _____, the importance of doing his/her part to make Homecroft Elementary a safe place to learn. We feel that our child understands the expectations for behaving in a manner that is appropriate and discourages the use of bullying tactics to solve problems and/or conflicts.

Student's signature

Parent's signature

Date