



Winchester Village Elementary School

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Bully Prevention Plan- It is Everybody's Responsibility

Dear Students and Parents:

I would like to thank our students for their participation in our Bully Prevention discussion. I enjoyed my visit to your classrooms. Everyone listened and participated during the presentation on the importance of handling conflicts without violence. I was very pleased by your responses, and your classmates' responses, to my questions about everyone's right to a **safe school**. Thank You!

Students, I would like for you to sit down with your parents to read through this letter together. Please take some time to discuss it as a family. **Research shows that the most important ingredient for stopping bullies in school is the need for everyone to have a clear understanding of what a bully is and what will be the severe consequences for choosing to intimidate.** Here is a summary of what a bully is and what the consequences will be. Please make sure that you read the Elementary Handbook for complete information regarding discipline, etc.

—WE WILL NOT TOLERATE BEHAVIOR THAT HURTS OTHERS—

Term Bully: a person who intentionally uses words and/or actions intended to hurt or dominate others.

First Level of Intimidation: May include but are not limited to the following behaviors:

1. Profanity of any kind will not be allowed. That includes inappropriate gestures and words.
2. Verbal Intimidation will not be allowed: May include; threats, cruel teasing, bullying, or harassment of any kind. **It is no longer acceptable to say, "Oh, I was just kidding."**
3. Physical Intimidation will not be allowed: May include; body language, gestures, spitting, pushing, shoving, or picking on another student for any reason.

Special Reminder: The first step for stopping a bully is that the victim (the recipient of the intimidation) **must tell the person to stop!** If the person does not stop, **the victim must report it to an adult.**

Possible Teacher Interventions: In all cases Teachers will proactively coach appropriate & expected behaviors.

- Classroom warning and notification to parents (written or verbal)
- Loss of special privileges at school
- Automatic removal from classroom/situation & time spent in office (5 – 20 minutes)
- If behaviors repeat: Removal from classroom & time spent in office (1 – 2 hours)
- Notify parents and schedule a conference if behaviors continue

Second Level of Intimidation:

1. Repeated Violations of Level One Offense: Student enters level two when he / she has received three level one violations & parents have been previously notified of repeated behaviors.
2. Extreme use of Profanity or Verbal Intimidation: (May include a series of harsh insults directed toward another person or staff member).
3. Extreme use of Physical Intimidation: Punching, kicking, fighting, or any method used to intentionally hurt another student and that student receives physical harm.

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- In-School Suspension: (1/2 day minimum to several days)
- A Parent / Teacher / Administrator meeting will be scheduled to discuss a behavior contract
- Restricted school schedule which includes loss of school privileges (ex: skating party, intramurals, special events/programs, basketball, etc.)
- Scheduled meeting with Perry Township Police Officers
- Loss of privileges on school bus
- Out-of-School Suspension (Loss of Academic Time to be made up by student)

Third Level of Intimidation:

1. Possessing a weapon of any kind or threatening to use any object as a weapon. Please refer to the Elementary Handbook for complete description of weapons.
2. Repeated Violations and Continued Behavior of Level Two offenses.

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- Automatic 1 Day Suspension (minimum)
- A Report may be made to the County Sheriff / Police Authorities
- A meeting with parents to discuss alternative school settings or the removal from school for a period of time
- Possible expulsion from school for an extended period as outlined in the handbook

Our students have been instructed that it is everyone's responsibility to stop school bullies. All students have been asked to make sure that they report any bullying that they see, hear about, or they are a victim of during school and/or while riding on the bus. Parents, please encourage your children to do their part.

Your Teacher, Parents, Administrators and Classmates will work with you so you can Be Your Best!

Important Message:

- Sometimes our classmates or people may choose to be unkind by:
 - Teasing
 - Putting others down
 - Being bossy
 - Trying to make you do things you don't want to do
 - Bother your learning time
 - Other...
- If someone is bothering you, doing things to you over and over...
 - Stepping on your heels
 - Touching/Poking/Bumping/Kicking you
 - Getting in your space
 - Teasing/Name Calling
 - Keeping you from learning...

THEN YOU NEED TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES...

1. **Be a Problem-Solver and Handle it Yourself:** (Use a strong Voice so others can hear you)
 - a. Say "Please Stop!" "Please Stop! You are bothering me when you _____"
 - b. Use an I Statement: "I feel _____ When you _____ Because _____ I Need _____"
 - c. **Make A Request:** "I Request that you _____ Because _____"
 - d. IF POSSIBLE REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THE SITUATION
2. **When Do I Report that Person to an adult:**
When that person continues bothering you, and you have tried to be a PROBLEM-SOLVER...then...
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO GET HELP FROM AN ADULT!!!!

Winchester Village Bully Prevention Plan

We have discussed with our child, _____, the importance of doing his/her part to make Winchester Village Elementary a safe place to learn. We feel that he/she understands the expectations and the consequences for choosing to use intimidation to solve his/her problems and/or conflicts.