

HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Our main priority is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors (bullying, intimidation, and harassment) are not acceptable. Strategies and practices are implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors.

Bullying is behavior where one person or group engages in harmful action towards another person or group acting on a real or perceived imbalance of power or view of superiority. The behavior typically includes verbal (e.g. teasing or name-calling) and physical aggression (e.g. hitting, pushing), threatening, excluding or ignoring, spreading rumors, or taking, defacing or destroying the others' property.

Harassment includes the same action, though not necessarily from a standpoint of perceived power. Both bullying and Harassment are prohibited. Bullying and harassment, whether cyber, physical, sexual, racial, emotional, etc, is a violation of student conduct rules and appropriate disciplinary measures can be enforced. When bullying or harassment is done on the basis of gender, disability, race, or other protected status, it is considered a very serious offense.

Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurring are to promptly report the problem to their teacher or to the Principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report.