

AMITY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Orange Campus

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BULLYING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Dear Parents and Families,

In 2011 the Connecticut legislature passed an act concerning bullying behavior in schools. Consistent with this law, we ask that parents/guardians immediately inform school personnel of suspected incidents of bullying.

Bullying is defined as "the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district that:

1. causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
2. places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
3. creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
4. infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
5. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school."

You may formally notify the school personnel in writing or call your child's guidance counselor or administrator. It is also important for you to know that consistent with this law your child may anonymously report acts of bullying to our teachers, other educational personnel (e.g., school psychologist, guidance counselor) and/or administrator. When possible, please encourage your son/daughter to make such reports if they feel they have been bullied or if they have witnessed another student being bullied. Students may also report suspected incidents of bullying through our Speak Up hotline, which allows for anonymous text messages and/or voice messages.

Bullying behavior is prohibited by our Bullying policy (Policy Code: JFCC) and Standard of Conduct policy (Policy Code: JFC) and may lead to disciplinary action, including possible suspension from school (or in more severe cases, expulsion). The law requires us to notify parents/guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents/guardians of students against whom such acts were directed.

We are fully aware that incidents of bullying are rarely committed in view of the supervising adults. Targeted students are most vulnerable in situations beyond the eyes of staff, such as hallways, cafeterias, buses, restrooms and bus stops. The most likely adult to be informed by a targeted student is the parent. Parents are often reticent to inform the school due to the student's fear of reprisal. However, without parent input on this, the school personnel are uninformed and therefore, unable to intervene to stop this behavior. It is important that the school staff and the parents continue to work together to protect the safe environment of the school, which includes the safety and welfare of each and every child.

For complete details, including Amity's Safe School Climate Plan, please see the student handbook and Amity Board of Education policy on our web site www.amityregion5.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Burke, Principal, Orange
Richard Dellinger, Principal, Bethany
Neil Holt, Assistant Principal, Orange
Thayer Doyle, Assistant Principal, Bethany