

Mean Teasing and Bullying Behavior Peer /Parent Assistance Teams

As we observe our St. Philip students at work and at play, we pause to celebrate the fact that the greatest majority of our children are kind and respectful... and they come from kind and respectful families.

Yet, the reality is that no school or community can be completely sheltered from mean teasing and mean spirited behavior. Some of this is part of growing up and learning conflict resolution skills. When handled well we can help children to build resiliency, character, and coping skills. They can develop tools and strategies that will help them to deal with oppositional relationships. Sometimes friends will have their differences. Working through hurtful experiences can be normal stumbling blocks in friendships.

However, sometimes mean teasing can escalate into bullying and intimidation.

Unfortunately, bullies do not set themselves up to be caught. Often the bullying behavior takes place when adults are not close by, or when the behavior is not easily observed. (playground, hallways, busses, or at home through phone calls or internet messages) This is when adults need to step in. Sometimes parents will say things like....

"I promised my child that I wouldn't call"

"The bullying and mean teasing might only get worse."

"We don't want to get the school involved."

"My child might become the next one to be picked on."

Ask yourself...

Does your son/daughter have ongoing complaints about another child or group of children?

Is the teasing escalating and are other children getting involved?

Does your child get nasty phone calls or internet messages at home?

Are cliques forming against your child?

Does your son/daughter dread coming to school because of the relationships?

When families do not come forward to share these things, we can not intervene and help the child, and the bully is given permission to continue to bully!

THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE INFORMED and the following will take place...

Parent-Student Assistant Team

Mr. Reisenbuechler and Father Mark will facilitate a Parent-Student mediation gathering

- We will do fact finding and set up a meeting with the parents of both students and the students themselves.
- Together the children and their parents will help us create a positive plan of action that flows out of Gospel values. Strategies and tools for conflict management will be examined.
- The bullying student and his/her parent will need to sign a plan of action and an acknowledgement that the oppositional bullying behavior ***will not be tolerated*** at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School. The Social Worker will meet with us..
- Families will need to ***assist us and assure us*** that the bullying behavior will immediately cease.
- If the behavior continues despite our collective interventions, then the family of the bullying student will be helped to find another learning environment for their child.

Thank you for being part of the solution in keeping our school bully-free!

PARENT SIGNATURE _____