Kilgore ISD on Bullying

A Message about Bullying

The subject of bullying has made national and local headlines as several high-profile events have brought this issue into the spotlight. Bullying is a problem that affects millions of students every day. Bullying is intentional tormenting in physical, verbal or psychological ways. Often people dismiss bullying among kids as a normal part of growing up. Bullying is harmful and can lead children and teenagers to feel tense and afraid. Children and adolescents who bully thrive on controlling or dominating others and have often been victims of physical abuse or bullying themselves.

Bullying is a growing issue across the nation and Kilgore ISD is not immune to this problem. Parents and community members may see Kilgore ISD's Bullying Policy FFI (Local) on the district website. Both campus and district administrators are working together to provide a safe and orderly learning environment that encourages community involvement and engagement. At the district level, we have implemented several initiatives:

- The Director of Special Projects/Safe and Drug Free Coordinator has provided campus administrators with information specifically addressing bullying.
- The district has established procedures on each campus for the reporting of bullying. Students should report any alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act in a timely manner. Any student who believes that he or she experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee. Any employee who receives notice that a student has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the campus principal or designee.
- Each campus has also been provided materials which include bullying, drugs and school safety.

We need to work together

It is important that the community be an active participant in this challenge to keep all our children safe, as this process can only be successful with assistance from both parents and community members. Parents are asked to talk to their children on a consistent basis to gauge their emotional and physical well-being and possible response to bullying situations.

Also, please share with your child the importance of telling an adult if they are being bullied, either at school or on the Internet sites such as Facebook and MySpace. Too often, schools learn about a bullying situation after it's too late. By letting us know early on, we can work together as partners and take appropriate measures to stop the bullying. Also, please let your children know that you will not tolerate any bullying type of behavior they may be a part of.

Social Networking

Social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace are quickly becoming tools for bullying and making threats. Children need to be reminded that the words they write and the images they

post have consequences offline. OnGuardOnline.gov provides several tips for parents to use to help children use social networking sites safely:

- Help your children understand what information should be private.
- Explain that children should post only information that you-and they-are comfortable with others seeing.
- Use privacy settings to restrict who can access and post on you child's Web site.
- Remind your children that once they post information online, they can't take it back.
- Talk to your children about avoiding suggestive talk online.
- Tell your children to trust their gut if they have suspicions. If they ever feel uncomfortable or threatened by anything online, encourage them to tell you.

Resources for Parents and Community Members

Parent and community members may access the following Web sites for resource information on bullying:

- Bullying Prevention Information
- OnGuardOnline.gov
- StopBullying.gov
- Cyber Bully 411
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry