



BULLYING POLICY

Introduction

Veritas High School strives to provide a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students in the school building, on school grounds, on the city buses, and at school-sponsored activities. Bullying has a harmful social, physical, psychological and academic impact on bullies, victims and bystanders. Veritas High School consistently and vigorously addresses bullying so that there is no disruption to the learning environment and the learning process.

Definition

Bullying is deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm. Bullying may be repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. The behavior may be motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as, but not limited to: age; national origin; race, ethnicity; religion; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical attributes; physical or mental ability or disability; and social, economic or family status.

Bullying behavior can be:

1. Physical (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
2. Verbal (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
3. Indirect (e.g. Spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using the internet-also known as cyber bullying)

Prohibition

Bullying behavior is prohibited in all schools, buildings, property and educational environments, including any property or vehicle owned, leased or used by the school. This includes public transportation regularly used by the students to go to and from school. Educational environments include, but not limited to, every activity under school supervision.

Procedure for Reporting/Retaliation

All school staff members and school officials who observe or become aware of acts of bullying are required to report these acts to a building administrator. Any other person, including a student who is either a victim of the bullying or is aware of the bullying or any other concerned individual is encouraged to report the conduct to a building administrator.

Reports of bullying may be made verbally or in writing and may be made confidentially. All such reports, whether verbal or in writing, will be taken seriously and a clear account of the incident is to be documented. A written record of the report, including all pertinent details, will be made by the recipient of the report.

The school official receiving a report of bullying shall immediately notify the school employee designated to investigate the report. The following school employees have been identified as possible investigators: Sherry Tolkan, Principal; George Thimmesch, Associate Principal; Brenda Jeske, School Counselor; Rick Gayan, Safety Aide; Julia Unger, Human Resource Director; and Marcia Spector, Executive Director.

There shall be no retaliation against individuals making such reports. Individuals engaging in retaliatory behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying

The school official shall conduct an investigation of the bullying report, within one school day, interview the person(s) who are the victim(s) of the bullying and collect whatever other information necessary to determine the facts and the seriousness of the report. Parents and/or guardians of each pupil involved in the bullying will be notified prior to the conclusion of the investigation. The school shall maintain the confidentiality of the report and any related pupil records to the extent required by law.

Sanctions and supports

If it is determined that students participated in bullying behavior or retaliated against anyone due to the reporting of bullying behavior, the school administration may take disciplinary action, including: informing parents, parent conference, suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials for possible legal action as appropriate. The school counselor staff will provide support for the identified victim(s) of the bullying.

Disclosure and Public Reporting

The policy will be distributed annually to all students, parents/guardians, and employees of Veritas High School. The school will also provide a copy of the policy to any person who requests it.

Records will be maintained on the number and types of reports made, and sanctions imposed for incidents found to be in violation of the bully policy.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date