

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

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Dixon, Illinois 61021

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Jeff Gould – Washington Elementary Principal
Crystal Thorpe – Jefferson Elementary Principal
Joseph Sagel – Madison Elementary Principal

Re: Bullying

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the School District's anti-bullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied.

The School Board policy on bullying begins with this goals statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
4. Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

I asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will give the student our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying and School Violence*. I will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

I also asked our staff members for their feedback and concerns specifically regarding locations that may be bullying *hot spots* needing additional supervision or monitoring or if there are any known bullies or

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.

targets of bullying in our building. I want to ask you to do the same thing. Please inform me if you know of any bullying *hot spots* in or around our school, or if you are aware of a known bully or target of bullying.

Finally, I requested our staff members to intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. They will immediately contact building security and or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Below are some of the signs that a young person is being bullied:

- Does not want to go to school and refuses to explain the reason
- Talks about not having any friends
- Has unexplained bruises, cuts, scratches, or abrasions
- Has unexplained damage to clothing, possessions, books, etc.
- Frequently loses money or possessions
- Loses interest in school and/or has declining grades
- Becomes withdrawn and/or has stress or depression symptoms

These signs do not necessarily mean your child is being bullied, but if present, ask your child whether he or she is being bullied.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Crystal Thorpe

Principal
Jefferson Elementary School
Dixon, IL

Students

Exhibit - Be a Hero by Reporting Bullying and School Violence

Who reports?	YOU, if you have information about bullying, harassment, school violence, and/or a threat of one of these actions. It doesn't matter whether you are the target of bullying or think someone is being bullied, please report it!
What do I report?	<p>Any activity that targets someone to be hurt. Bullying, harassment, school violence, and threats take many forms. One thing they have in common – someone is targeted to be hurt. Examples of these hurtful behaviors include unwanted teasing, intimidation, physical violence, humiliation, spreading false rumors, social exclusion, or theft or destruction of property.</p> <p>Bullying, harassment, school violence, and threats may occur almost anywhere students go – in school buildings, on school grounds or busses, at bus stops, for example. Bullying or harassing may also occur using social networking sites or cell phones.</p>
When should I report?	As soon as possible.
Where or how do I report?	<p>Tell any school staff member. You may do this in person, by phone, or by email. You may be asked to complete 7:180-AP1, E5, <i>Report Form for Bullying and School Violence</i>.</p> <p>You may make an anonymous tip.</p>
Why should I report?	Fear and abuse have no place in our school. Be a hero and report bullying. If you are being bullied, a report will help you and other students who may also be targeted for bullying.
What will happen after I report?	<p>An Administrator will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge and review your report. 2. Treat your report with privacy and respect. 3. Investigate your report. The school will not bring students who bully and those they bully into the same room to confront each other. All interviews will be private. 4. Take appropriate action that may include increased monitoring and supervision, restructuring schedules, additional resources, and disciplinary action for conduct code violations, among others. 5. Provide you with feedback, if appropriate.

Report Form for Bullying and School Violence

To be completed by the bullying target, witness, or person with information about an incident of bullying or school violence and submitted to the Building Principal's office. Make readily accessible via website(s) and other publicized designated areas in schools.

Please print and check appropriate boxes.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Student Parent Staff Other _____

Indicate here if you prefer to remain anonymous. Yes No

Are you the target of the bullying or school violence that you are reporting? Yes No

Date of incident: _____ Time of incident: _____

Person(s) being reported as targets of bullying or school violence:

Name: _____ Student Staff

Name: _____ Student Staff

Name: _____ Student Staff

Person(s) being reported as aggressors engaged in bullying or school violence:

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Person(s) who witnessed the bullying or school violence:

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Was the incident based on any of these characteristics? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Color | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender identity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-related identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-related expression | <input type="checkbox"/> Ancestry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Order of protection status | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marital status | <input type="checkbox"/> Parental status | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy |
- Associated with person/group with one or more of the above actual or perceived characteristics
 Other _____
 I do not know.

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following way(s): (Check all that apply.)

- Electronic devices (e.g., internet, Social media platforms, text, email, cyberbullying, etc.)
 Written communication (e.g., handwritten notes, other written documents, email, etc.)
 Physical act or conduct (e.g., pushing, hitting, destruction of property, stalking, etc.)

- Verbal act or conduct (e.g., rumors, lies, name-calling, using derogatory slurs, etc.)
- Social (e.g., purposeful exclusion, causing psychological harm, etc.)
- Items depicting implied hatred or prejudice were worn, possessed or displayed
- Other (*please explain*): _____

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following place(s): (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Locker room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus stop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> School or related activity or event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Please tell us about the incident in your own words. Use as much detail as possible - what time did the incident(s) take place, who witnessed it, what was said, what types of interactions occurred (physical, written, social, electronic, etc.)

The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____