

PRESENTATION B.V.M.'S ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM

The Presentation B.V.M. School Administration and Faculty strive to create a caring school environment and teach life skill strategies to build self-esteem. We emphasize a positive environment that promotes learning, the value of oneself, and the worth of others in light of the Gospel message of Jesus.

Our program against bullying is based on the research done by Dan Olweus. He found that bullying is an underlying issue among students of all ages. He said that bullying is behavior that is intended to harm or cause stress, is repeated over time, and is an imbalance of power or strength among the parties. This imbalance of power may be physical or psychological. Bullying may be physical (hitting, shoving), verbal (name-calling, threats), or psychological (excluding, manipulating friendships).

Bullying is distinguished from other kinds of conflict between children in a number of ways, but most obviously by:

1. the repetitive nature of bullying (it isn't a one-time event)
2. the power imbalance between the children

Our program at Presentation School is designed to:

1. reduce the frequency of bullying incidents
2. increase the self esteem of our students
3. empower our students to stand up to bullies
4. encourage our students to come to the aid of those being bullied

The Antibullying Program in our school is implemented through classroom meetings, student education, positive reminders and environment, and written detailed logs of student behavior problems.

The teacher is the facilitator of a classroom meeting. Various topics, grounded in the tenets of our Catholic faith, focus on the importance of community building, the uniqueness of the individual, and the ability to make good choices. The meetings are held bi-monthly. Students can freely express their concerns about various social topics. Class meeting rules are posted and each faculty member completes reports on the meetings highlighting the topics covered and a teacher evaluation of the meeting.

Younger students are taught the basics of the program during these meetings. The development of interventional procedures for both the protection of the bully targets, and the reinforcement of positive social interaction strategies for the bullies themselves, is stressed throughout all the grades.

Posters and bulletin boards throughout the school serve as reminders for our children and highlight a positive atmosphere. During the school year various grades write essays, create posters, and complete projects, focusing on acceptance.

Behavior Blogs are kept by the homeroom teacher and contain detailed behavior incident forms, notification to parents, and the actions taken with the children involved in a behavior or bullying incident. They are kept each year and passed on to the next teacher. This is in place so that the blog can be used in referencing repetitive actions on the part of a child.

Our antibullying program is a school-wide effort. It is systems and individual oriented, preventive, and problem solving. It focuses on changing norms and behavior. It is research based and not time limited.

The program is constantly evolving and requires continual reevaluation and revision over time.

We at Presentation B.V.M. School, want to reflect an environment characterized by warmth and respect for others, with a compassionate staff that promotes our values and does not accept intolerance in any form.