

Bullying Prevention & Awareness

Dear SVMS Parents,

At Star Valley Middle School bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. Students should be free from worries about being bullied. We take bullying reports seriously and have systems set up to address bullying reports and to prevent bullying. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning our efforts to address and prevent bullying at SVMS.

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.

We ask our staff to respond immediately and with compassion to any student who reports bullying or school violence. Staff are asked to report any incidences of bullying to an administrator (Mr. Burch or Mr. Haderlie). We investigate every reported bullying incident. Our first priority is to ensure that the student who reports the bullying is safe and kept anonymous. After we have investigated the report our next goal is to ensure that students who bully others are taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. In addition, we want to teach all students the principles of resiliency and how to handle future situations that may arise. All of these steps may involve many resources including aides, teachers, and counselors.

We work hard to prevent bullying in our school by utilizing principles from the "CLASSY Program" by Kem Cazier, "Teaching Social Skills to Youth" by Tom Dowd, M.A. and Jeff Tierney, M. ED., and "The 8 Keys of Excellence" by Bobbi DePorter. These skills are taught and emphasized during STARS time. If you would like more information on any of these resources please contact either Mr. Burch or Mr. Haderlie. As a staff we also try to be visible and accessible to students in the halls before school during passing time, at lunch, free time and after school.

If you are aware or become aware of a student who you believe is bullying or being bullied, please make a report to an Administrator (Mr. Burch or Mr. Haderlie).

We will:

- Acknowledge and review your report.
- Treat your report with privacy and respect.
- 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.
- Take appropriate action that may include increased monitoring and supervision, restructuring schedules, additional resources, and disciplinary action for conduct code violations, among others, and provide you with feedback, if appropriate.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Burch
Principal SVMS