

Bullying Prevention in Pottsgrove School District

Below is a summary of programs and interventions addressing bullying prevention by level.

Elementary Schools

- Updated Second Step Curriculum in the elementary schools for the guidance department. The Second Step curriculum features grade level, developmentally appropriate ways to teach core social-emotional skills such as empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. This was also possible through the grant funding of the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation.
- 3rd graders have been receiving a research based bullying prevention program, Positive Action, through Spring Ford Counseling (11 sessions at one hour each) available through a change in county funding.
- All three guidance counselors at the elementary level are participating in training to become bullying prevention specialists and will be developing curriculum to implement in 2014-2015 (K-5). Each has meet with classes to do non-bullying lessons.
- The BABES program in 2nd grade, provided through Spring Ford Counseling, provides factual information about drugs and alcohol and an introduction to decision making and coping skills.
- Positive behavior is rewarded through SWPBS programs in each building.
- West Pottsgrove has the “Bucket Filler” program and is launching the Buddy Bench at recess this spring.
- Ringing Rocks has launched the Buddy Bench at recess, and will be launching the “Bucket Filler” program in March. They are also having a bullying prevention assembly in the spring.

Middle School:

- Unity Day at the MS is about fostering a climate of compassion where all students feel important and accepted. We promote the Middle School Falcon Four: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Positive through the use of team building activities with a core focus on trust and honesty.
 - Highlights of Unity Day:
 1. Full Value Contract (defining and agreeing to the Falcon Four).
 2. Identifying Bullies, Bystanders and Targets along with their roles and problem areas in within our building.
 3. Brain Storm ideas on how to Unit under the Full Value Contract to promote acceptance and social/emotional well being.
 - The expansion of programming to all grade levels is becoming available through grant support of the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation and a demonstrated expertise of the MS guidance department in providing this type of programming.
- Renewal of emphasis on the SWPBS program, including meeting with PATTAN consultants and Thom Stecher.

High School

- Bullying is addressed in all three levels of the SNAP academy at the high school. All students are encouraged to use the Snap boxes around the school to report issues with bullying.
- Falcon Friends is a new club at the high school designed to promote tolerance of differences and promote inclusion. Students volunteer to partner with students from the Life Skills class in electives, special projects, and Special Olympics.
- High School SWPBS team is being formed to implement program next year (2014-15).

District Wide Initiatives

- Community Connection January 21st 2014 at 7PM @ Ringing Rocks Elementary District Attorney's office presenting on Cyber Bullying/Bullying/Sexting/Internet Safety (currently trying to reschedule).
- School wide positive behavior support (SWPBS) systems are in place in all elementary buildings and the MS. The HS is investigating a similar system for the 2014-2015 school year. SWPBS programs are designed to be decision making frameworks that guide selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students. Additionally, SWPBS programs positively impact overall school climate and promote a positive learning environment.
- Parents that have individual student issues with any type of bullying should contact the building administrators to set up an individual problem solving meeting to address the issue. Administrators are trained in problem solving techniques. They can access additional building or district personnel including guidance counselors and social workers as needed. All administrators follow associated school board policies to remedy bullying situations.

In order to supplement our current programs and supports, we will be looking at the following opportunities in 2014-2015:

- Increased partnerships with community that specialize in conflict resolution such as Fellowship Farms and Child and Family Focus.
- Additional training and support through PATTAN for SWPBS systems at each level.
- Implementation of bullying prevention curriculum being developed by elementary counselors