

Anti-Bullying Pledge

Our school community is committed to making schools a safe and caring environment for all students. We will treat each other with respect and refuse to tolerate bullying of any kind.

Definition: Bullying is unfair and one-sided. Bullying behavior happens when someone continues to hurt, harass, intimidate, threaten, or cause substantial emotional distress to a person. Cyber bullying is the use of electronic communication media (cell phones, text messages, instant messaging, social networks, etc.) to bully another student in the ways described above. Bullying and cyber bullying interfere with a student's educational opportunities and can substantially disrupt the orderly operations of the school.

Bullying behaviors include the following:

- Hurting someone physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, or pushing
- Stealing or damaging another person's things
- Ganging up on someone
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way
- Using put-downs (i.e., insulting or making fun of someone)
- Name calling
- Spreading rumors or untruths about someone
- Leaving someone out intentionally, or trying to coerce other students not to play with someone
- Using any electronic communication device (texting, cell phones, social networks, etc.) to insult, threaten, or post untrue information or embarrassing photos about another student

Students at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying:

- Treat everyone with respect and kindness
- Refuse to bully others
- Refuse to let others be bullied
- Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied
- Try to include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out
- Report bullying behavior to an adult

Teachers and staff at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying and help children feel safe at school:

- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school and playground
- Watch for signs of bullying behavior and stop it when it happens
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports
- Look into all reported bullying incidents
- Assign consequences for bullying based on the school discipline policy
- Assign immediate consequences for retaliation against students who report bullying

Consequences for Violation of the Anti-Bullying Pledge and Policies

Bully behavior, including cyber bullying, will not be tolerated. If cyber bullying occurs outside of school hours, but the repercussions are brought to school and disrupt the school and/or interfere with a student's emotional/social well being, consequences will be given. Depending on the severity and nature of the incident, the principal or designee will take one or more of the following steps when bullying occurs:

- Intervention, Warning, and Redirection
A teacher, principal, or staff member will ensure that the immediate behavior stops and reinforce to the student who is doing the bullying that bullying will not be tolerated. During this meeting with

the student, the staff member will redirect the student and come up with a plan for success should they find themselves in a similar situation in the future. Consequences will be appropriate for the action and developmental age of the student.

- Notification of Parents
School staff will notify the parents of involved students. The parents might be asked to meet with the principal or other members of the school staff, including the student’s teacher and/or the school psychologist.
- Resolution with the Target of the Bullying
The student who is bullying may be required to write a letter of apology to the student who was bullied. Depending upon the nature of the incident, the students involved may meet to help resolve the problem and ensure it does not happen again.
- Referral to School Support Staff
The student who is bullying may meet with the school guidance counselor to help prevent future violations.
- Consequences
The student who is bullying may lose recess, be assigned detention and/or lose school privileges (i.e., serving on student council, school newspaper, school performances, yearbook, etc). In cases of serious or repeated bullying, the student may be suspended. If serious circumstances warrant, law enforcement may also be contacted.

Please return this portion to your classroom teacher. This pledge will be kept in the classroom.

RUSD Anti-Bullying Student/Parent Pledge

I, _____, have reviewed this pledge with my parents/guardians and promise that I will do my best to keep our school a safe and caring place. This means that I will:

1. Treat *everyone* with kindness and respect.
2. Refuse to bully others.
3. Refuse to let others be bullied.
4. Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied.
5. Try to include everyone, especially those who are often left out.
6. Report bullying to an adult.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

Supporting RUSD Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR):

- BP 5137 Positive School Climate
- BP 5131 Conduct
- BP 5030 Student Wellness
- BP/AR 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures
- AR 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
- AR 0440 District Technology Plan
- BP/AR 5139 Bullying
- AR 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

RUSD Board of Trustees approved: 9.13.16

