

Mariemont Junior High School: Implementing the Bullying Prevention Program

Areas of need highlighted by the survey:

- The common locations for bullying in the junior high were the hallways, lunchroom and classrooms in between bells
- The most common types of bullying were verbal, social/ exclusion, rumors
- The least common types of bullying were property damage, threats, physical and cyber
- 92% of students who say that they "feel sorry" or "feel sorry and want to help" when they see a student being bullied; however, it was reported that other students try to put a stop to a student being bullied only 18% of the time

To address the concerns listed above, Mariemont Junior High has implemented a plan that includes the following components:

- Jim Bisenius presented his program Bully-Proofing Youth, <http://bullyproofingyouth.com>, to students, staff and parents on November 12. His student presentation focused on training students how to respond appropriately in bullying situations. He discussed common issues and situations present in schools and how staff can be more aware and aid in preventing these situations.
- Mariemont Junior High staff members attended a presentation by Ed Greene, <http://saferschoolsproject.org>, during the October in-service to discuss the definition of bullying and ways to prevent it in the schools.
- Staff members received targeted training on how to structure their classrooms, handle bullying situations directly and reinforce the steps taught during the student assemblies.
- The students created a school-wide theme using unified arts classes to create videos and posters to spread an anti-bullying message:
 - The School Climate Committee sponsored the video contest, and winning videos will be displayed on digital signage monitors in all school buildings.
- The staff will increase supervision in the hallways, cafeteria and other common areas.
- Staff training using Olweus survey results and Olweus materials will be implemented during team meetings.
- The school will form a School Climate Committee consisting of students, parents and staff members, which will meet to communicate needs and make plans to improve the learning environment:
 - Student groups meet weekly to develop the school-wide theme and corresponding materials, discuss plans for the kick-off event and review the positive aspects of school climate.
 - Parents and staff members meet monthly to communicate needs and make plans to improve learning environment at the junior high school.

- Monthly classroom meetings in Warrior Bell groups will address bullying topics.
- The Courage Retreat is held in February for 7th grade students.
- Bullying issues for girls will be addressed through different in-school programs, including Lady Warriors and Girls on the Run.
- Counselor-led group lessons in both 7th and 8th grade classes will address bullying problems and what individual students can do about it.
- Bullying prevention resources, links, policies and programs are posted on the school district website: <http://www.mariemontschools.org/about/Bullying-Prevention.cfm>, as well as the Blackboard Parent Portal, which will also include Olweus and Hope survey results.
- The school district has partnered with Public School Works to provide an anonymous online and phone bullying reporting platform: <https://www.publicschoolworks.com/SHL/bullyingMgr.asp?di=174>. A link to the reporting system is also included on the junior high school home page.

Contact Information

Amy Skinner

School Counselor, Mariemont Junior High School

(513) 272-7300

askinner@mariemontschools.org