

RB FOLLOWS STATE AND FEDERAL ANTI-BULLYING MANDATES

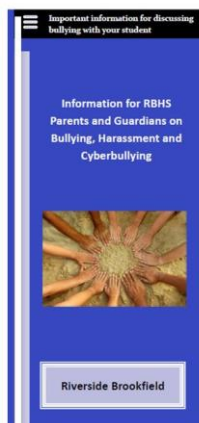
Message from Principal Bylsma

2013-2014

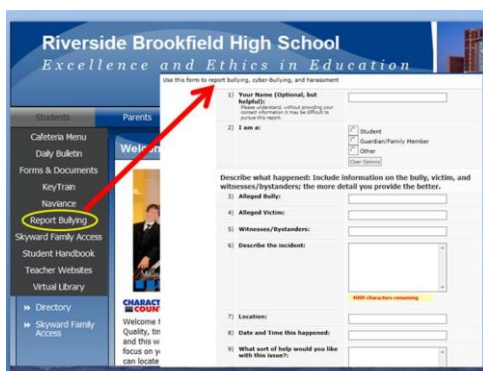
Riverside Brookfield High School is known to be a caring school where teachers and staff members pride themselves on making sure that each and every student receives the support needed to be successful academically and emotionally. An essential part of providing a nurturing, safe environment that fosters student growth is to ensure that acts of bullying, intimidation, and harassment are actively discouraged and effectively addressed when they occur. Such incidents diminish a student's ability to learn and have the potential to be so emotionally devastating that teenagers can lose their motivation to come to school and, in severe cases, the will to live. Therefore, preventing students from engaging in these hurtful and disruptive behaviors is an important District goal that is stressed to the students repeatedly.

In fact, all schools in the state of Illinois are required by State law to include bullying prevention curriculum and character instruction in all grades as well as incorporating student social and emotional skill development into their District's educational program. District 208 Board Policy 7:180: "Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment" aligns with State and Federal law and clarifies what must be done at RBHS to be in compliance these mandates.

Therefore, RB follows the United States Department of Education and the Office of Civil Rights mandates that prohibit bullying "on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy."



Resource Brochure



On-line Anonymous Bullying Report



Conflict Resolution Skills Peer Training

We are proud of the proactive steps we take in regard to this issue. First, we set clear behavioral expectations for living up to the Character Counts! ethical values of Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Then we encourage all members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, to report alleged acts of bullying, intimidation, harassment, and other acts of actual or threatened violence via our on-line, anonymous "Report Bullying" site. Furthermore, we provide a nationally renowned anti-bullying and internet safety expert to speak to sophomores in the fall, and we present curriculum to freshmen in the spring. Additionally, we teach conflict resolution and negotiation skills to our

students so they can appropriately identify their frustrations and can resolve their conflicts peacefully. When incidents of bullying occur, we apply appropriate disciplinary consequences, including police involvement if warranted. Finally, we provide counseling and social work services to groups of students to mediate their conflicts and to individual students who are perpetrators and victims in need more intensive behavioral assistance. For parents/guardians, we provide an annual bullying prevention brochure, which can be accessed on our website through this link: <http://www.rbhs208.net/file/3147/download>

Administrators monitor bullying on an ongoing basis at RB, collecting and analyzing data on the nature and extent of bullying. Programming is modified as issues arise. For instance, with the increase in cyber-bullying, our Internet Safety curriculum now includes lessons related to social media harassment. Our efforts have helped RB reduce the number of students disciplined for bullying and the number of students involved in repeated incidents of bullying. Our students feel empowered to report peer mistreatment to staff or through the anonymous web form. When comparing data from 2009-2010 to 2012-2013, we have seen a 25% decrease of students being consequence for bullying/intimidation, a 58% reduction in fights, and 90% reduction in verbal altercations.

If you have any concerns about bullying, harassment, or intimidation, I encourage you to read the brochure, to fill out a bullying report online, or to call any administrator directly. Open collaboration is the best way to keep improving the school safety for all of our students.