

Hello Webb School Community!

October 25, 2018

Well, we made it through our first quarter and I hope everyone had a relaxing and well-deserved Fall break! I just wanted to check in with a little news from the counseling office. First, October is Bullying Prevention and Awareness month. This actually ties in perfectly with this month's Enduring Understanding theme of "RESPECT for self and others is essential to a harmonious society" and the related "teaching empathy strategy" of PERSPECTIVE TAKING. I have provided several resources for advisors to use in their advisory groups. The titles of these lessons are Bullying Upstander Information and Peer Pressure and Bullying. They include choices of four videos to share with students, worksheets, role plays, small group discussion topics, etc. Each advisor is asked to present a minimum of one lesson on this topic this month. Also, did you know that The Webb School has an anonymous Bullying Prevention Hotline? It is called "Stand Up Feet" and encourages our students to stand up for one another. Research indicates that 70.6% of young people say they have seen bullying in their schools AND that when bystanders intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds 57% of the time. However, many children who witness bullying are understandably hesitant to intervene for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we created the anonymous hotline so students can report what they see directly to the counseling office without being identified. The advisors will also be reminding the students of this hotline this month. Parents, you can also encourage your Webb student to use the hotline and I am providing the information below.



As a school, we address the issue of bullying from the time a student is enrolled when they and their parents sign the Statement of Intent. The following is a part of that document:

*I, the undersigned, pledge that in the spirit and intent of the standards and policies of The Webb School, I will not harass, bully and/or treat others in any indecent fashion of an objectionable nature determined by the school. I understand that harassment involves the use of aggressive language and/or actions to pressure or intimidate another person to behave in a manner that symbolizes less than desirable concerns for oneself and others. Likewise, I understand that bullying is the repeated use of an imbalance in power to force someone to behave in a manner that elicits a harmful outcome in the short and/or long term. I will abstain from sexual relations while under the jurisdiction of the school and/or on campus. Whether as an instigator or participant in such affairs, it is unseemly for me to be involved in behaviors like these which are deemed by the school to compromise the safety, health, and well-being of the individual and the school community. Our school respects the dignity of each and every person as a fellow human being, and all of us care to be compassionate and courageous agents of good.*

We take the issue of bullying very seriously, so if you feel your child, or any other Webb student, is being bullied or harassed, please contact one of the following:

Michele Daniel-School Counselor: 1-931-389-5774

Raymond Broadhead-Head of School: 1-931-389-5702

Tabetha Sullens-Head of Middle School: 1-931-389-5772

Larry Foulk-Dean of Students: 1-931-389-5704

Lastly, I just want to provide some resources to assist in bullying prevention and awareness. These websites provide warning signs that a child is being bullied, facts and statistics, the most recent research, tips on how to intervene, tips on how to talk to children about bullying, laws and policies, information about cyberbullying, and much more!

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/>

As always, feel free to get in touch with me anytime. Thanks for taking the time to review the article. Happy Halloween!

Regards,

Michele A. Daniel

School Counselor

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