

## **Veterans Park Elementary Bullying Policy**

At Veterans Park Elementary, we believe that bullying of any kind is unacceptable. All students should be able to attend school free from the worry associated with bullying, and students who bully others must be taught other appropriate ways of interacting with peers. All students at our school will learn universal rules and expectations about bullying, as well as different skills and tools they can use to prevent or respond to bullying. Bullying can take different forms including, but not limited to, verbal, social, physical or cyber. It can harm social relationships with peers, and is harmful to all involved.

We define bullying as the following:

- One-sided, intentional, repeated (or has the potential to be repeated)
- Happening when someone purposefully hurts, frightens, or threatens someone else
- Happening when someone purposefully leaves out, ridicules, spreads rumors, or makes offensive comments to someone else
- Real or perceived imbalance of power

The VPE school climate encourages and rewards students for being kind and respectful to their peers through:

- A school-wide emphasis on good citizenship
- A partnership with PTA that focuses on giving to the community
- A principal's reward program and certificate for helping others (Principal's Pride and Joy)

All students receive explicit instruction rooted in social-emotional learning, which helps children better understand, manage, and express emotions and empathy, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Classroom guidance sessions with all grade levels focus on:

- Empathy
- Respect for others
- Understanding differences
- Uniqueness
- Friendship and caring

VPE administrative team may, at different times, find it necessary to call in the SAFE schools/district personnel to talk to one particular class, group of students, or grade level about the seriousness of harassment and to reiterate the consequences of bullying.

Students are encouraged to make a report if they feel uncomfortable about the way they are being treated.

If the staff determines the behavior meets the VPE definition of bullying, the following steps will be taken:

- 3 ticket pulls
- Conference with counselor and/or principal
- Parent is contacted and incident is documented appropriately
- The Student Code of Conduct is consulted as needed