



Jericho Middle School

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October 10, 2007

Dear Sixth Grade Parents:

The year has gotten off to a great start. Your children seem happy and we're proud to have them as members of the middle school family. I met with the entire sixth grade this morning in the auditorium to review our procedures with regard to bullying. It is my perception that although I went over this at the beginning of the year when I met with classes in the library; and every sixth grade class has participated in lessons on the BRAVE program; some students still need to understand what constitutes bullying.

I gave the following examples of bullying:

- When you call somebody a mean name (even if YOU think it's true.)
- When you tell somebody you hate him/her.
- When you say mean things behind somebody's back.
- When you spread rumors about somebody on the internet.
- When you say unflattering things about or to another student.
- When you exclude others from your cafeteria table.
- When you take somebody's belongings and move them or hide them.
- When you take somebody's seat in the cafeteria when he/she gets up.
- When you are physical with others in a way that causes them harm or embarrassment.

I pointed out to students, as I did when I met with them at the beginning of the school year, that they have a *right to come to school with the expectation that they will be in a safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment* (quoted from our district Code of Conduct). Therefore, I explained, students who engage in bullying behaviors in school or on the bus will face serious consequences including a parent conference.

One of the acronyms of BRAVE is *Believing in the Rights and Values of Everyone*. I told the children that I am fully confident that they will do their personal best and avoid behaviors that will cause others to feel upset, uncomfortable, or bullied at our school. I'd appreciate it if you'd review these ideas with your child. As always, I am most grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Gately

Donald F. Gately
Principal

DFG:rn
Parent Ltr-Bullying-10-10-07

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