

## System Bully Prevention Plan

Calhoun City Schools makes every effort to provide a safe and secure school environment for our students. In addition to our emphasis on excellence in academics, arts, and athletics, we have many programs and activities in place to foster a climate of welcome and acceptance for all of our students, parents, and visitors. Each school handbook addresses Bullying in its Code of Conduct. In addition, CCS Board Policy on bullying can be viewed on the Eboard link located on the Board of Education website. Below is a highlight of the bully prevention program at each school.

### **Calhoun Primary School School-wide Bully Prevention**

At the beginning of the school year, students are introduced to the topic of “bullying behavior” through Character Club on Bee TV. Bee TV is shown each morning to start the school day. Students are provided instruction on what “bullying” is, and students are taught that “bully bee” behavior is not tolerated at our school. Students are advised what to do if they are bullied. The video “It’s Not OK To Bully” is shown to all students at the first of the school year.

“No Name Calling Week” is celebrated in January with emphasis all week on being kind. Announcements are made during Bee TV and students practice using “kind” words that build up rather than “mean” words that tear down.

Classroom Guidance lessons reinforce the “no bully bee” policy throughout the school year. Lessons are taught in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade on the following topics:

Respect for Others Compassion/Empathy Tolerance/Individual Differences Making and Keeping Friends 2nd Graders are taught a lesson on the topic of “bullying”.

School staff receive annual training which includes the definitions of bullying, effects of bullying on victims, school code of conduct and expectations, how to intervene when bullying is reported/witnessed, etc.

When a student is reported as “bullying” another student, both students are referred to the Assistant Principal to investigate the event and determine if the incident was bullying. Students will then be referred to the School Counselor on an individual basis for counseling services. The school contacts parents of all students involved in a bullying

incident.

Individual Counseling services are provided to all children in crisis on a one-on-one basis. Students are referred by him/herself, teachers, and/or parents. The School Counselor is also available to work with individual or groups of parents/guardians who have common concerns about their primary school children. Parent conferences may be made by appointment.

### **Calhoun Elementary School School-wide Bully Prevention**

The topic of bullying is addressed in classroom guidance programs at each grade level throughout the school year. Concepts students learned in Primary school, such as types of bullying, responses to bullying, and bullying prevention are revisited and reinforced. Fifth grade lessons introduce forms of bullying such as social exclusion and students are taught ways to be inclusive in social situations.

Calhoun Elementary utilizes the character education program Core Essentials to focus on positive character traits that prevent bullying. The monthly lessons begin in August by focusing on respecting oneself and others. Other lessons reinforce empathy and compassion, tolerance of differences, and being a good friend. Students who exemplify these standards are awarded a certificate and coupon for Chick-Fil-A at the end of each month.

Students who may be participating in or be the victim of bullying behavior are referred to the Counselor and the Assistant Principal. Interventions such as mediation, individual counseling, or disciplinary actions are provided as necessary. The Counselor and the Assistant Principal communicate and consult with parents of students involved in bullying situations.

Calhoun Elementary facilitates a school-wide positive behavior program, PBIS. This program promotes positive peer relations and behaviors through a year long reward system. Students earn Jacket Gold slips for positive behaviors and are able to “cash” them in for rewards.

Students participate in an honor pledge each morning during announcements. This pledge serves as a daily reminder of behavioral expectations at Calhoun Elementary School.

Staff participate in annual training on preventing, identifying, and handling bullying behaviors.

### **Calhoun Middle School School-wide Bully Prevention**

Students are provided with bullying behavior education through the CMS Advisement Program. The Advisement Program is a designated time each month devoted to career

development and social skills administered weekly at the middle school level. Lessons and activities related to the topics of bullying and harassment are discussed during this advisement time periodically throughout the school year. The advisement lessons are interactive, informative and engaging.

The PBIS, positive behavior program, also focuses throughout the year on bullying prevention. Students are rewarded for recognizing bullying behavior and addressing it appropriately and as instructed. The program also puts an emphasis on performing acts of kindness and compassion, the antithesis of bullying.

Students who bully or are being bullied are referred to the School Counselor and the Assistant Principal. These individuals work together to create a safe learning environment and to address the needs of students as they relate to bullying behavior. Parents of the student who is bullying and the student being bullied are notified and counseling interventions are discussed and put into practice as needed.

Staff development and training regarding bullying and harassment takes place on an annual basis and is delivered by both the Counselor and the System Social Worker. This continues in an effort to educate our staff so they may in turn educate the students and our community.

### **Calhoun High School School-wide Bully Prevention**

CHS provides students with bullying prevention lessons through the advisement program. In addition to advisement lessons, the CHS Soft Skills program promotes positive interactions between students with an emphasis on self-discipline and character development. Students receive a Soft Skills grade in each high school course. CHS also utilizes a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), to promote and reward students for demonstrating positive behaviors.