

# Herald Whitaker Middle School

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## Bullying Policy

### Philosophy/Definition of Bullying Behavior

At Herald Whitaker Middle School, students will respect the rights of others and interact with others in a civil manner. Students will speak and behave respectfully toward other students, faculty, staff and visitors to the school.

Bullying behavior disrupts the educational process and will not be tolerated at Herald Whitaker Middle School. This policy applies to all school related functions.

As referred to in this policy, bullying is repeated verbal or physical harassment toward another person over time.

Students will

- ❖ maintain acceptable conduct at all times
- ❖ display consideration for the rights and properties of others
- ❖ abstain from physically attacking any school employee or classmates
- ❖ show respect for school authority by avoiding all acts of defiance
- ❖ represent the truth in all school matters
- ❖ avoid the use of verbal abuse with all persons within the school setting
- ❖ refrain from the harassment of fellow students and/or school personnel
- ❖ exhibit respect for other opinions by refraining from rudeness or inappropriate language
- ❖ practice self-control in terms of voice and limbs
- ❖ abstain from any form of disruptive behavior in the classroom, school grounds or school bus

## **Consequences**

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

**Parent/Guardian conference**

**Temporary restriction from school activities (e.g., pep rallies, assemblies, field trips)**

**Temporary isolation from other students**

**Assignment of constructive assignments/tasks**

**Suspension from school**

## **Reporting and investigating**

Students may report bullying behavior to any Herald Whitaker Middle School faculty member. The information will then be given to an administrator for investigation.

Students may anonymously report bullying behavior by completing a bullying reporting form placing it in one of drop boxes located in the main building outside the office or in the school's library.

Upon receiving notification of student bullying, school administrators will investigate the allegation.

Within a reasonable period of time, school administrators will investigate any and all allegations of incidents that involve bullying infractions and appropriate actions will be taken based on supportive documentation or evidence.

Reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports and incident of bullying will not be tolerated. Any such incident will be reported to the school administration and appropriate action will be taken.

Any student who falsely accuses another as a means of harassment, intimidation, or bullying will be subject to the aforementioned disciplinary guidelines for bullying behavior.

Students and parents will be informed of this policy in the following ways:

- ❖ The policy will be posted in all classrooms.
- ❖ Copies of this policy will be sent home by students.
- ❖ This policy will be provided electronically with notification of availability and access instructions.

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