



LOWELLVILLE LOCAL SCHOOLS
52 ROCKET PLACE
LOWELLVILLE, OHIO 44436

Board of Education

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Christine Sawicki, Superintendent
Andrea Apisa, Treasurer
Tracie Parry, Principal
Jeff Hammond, Assistant Principal

November 25, 2025

Dear Lowellville School Community,

The Lowellville Local Schools Administration and Board of Education wish to reaffirm our collective commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for every student. As outlined in our district's beliefs, we are dedicated to fostering a healthy, nurturing, and emotionally safe school climate, where all students are treated with dignity and are free from bullying, intimidation, harassment, or any behavior that interferes with their well-being.

Please be assured that any situations brought to our attention have been handled in full accordance with the procedures outlined in our district handbooks and Board of Education policies, which require consistency, documentation, fairness, and fidelity. Our administrators and staff follow a progressive and consistent discipline process, ensuring that every incident is thoroughly investigated and addressed.

It is also important to clarify what falls within the school's jurisdiction. While we take our responsibility to safeguard students very seriously, the school is not responsible for incidents that occur outside of school hours or off school property, including evenings, weekends, and online activity. Issues that take place on social media, gaming platforms, texting, group chats, and other digital spaces must be addressed by families, and when appropriate, by local law enforcement. The school cannot impose discipline for behaviors that occur outside of school-sponsored activities unless they directly impact the safety or functioning of the school environment.

Stopping unkind or inappropriate behavior begins at home. We respectfully ask for your partnership in reinforcing the expectations that guide students in how they treat others. Children learn how to communicate, respond to conflict, and show empathy best when they receive consistent messages from both home and school. When parents actively model and teach kindness, responsibility, and respect, it strengthens the values we promote within the school community.

As part of this shared effort, **we encourage all families to review the attached handout, which outlines how our school teaches students to navigate conflict in healthy and constructive ways.** This resource reinforces the strategies we use with students daily and provides guidance for supporting these skills at home.

Within the district, our staff members are expected to intervene immediately when concerns arise and ensure that all reports of bullying or harassment are promptly investigated. Acts of bullying, intimidation, or harassment are not tolerated in any form, and students are supported through clear expectations, restorative conversations, and appropriate consequences based on our established discipline procedures which are outlined in our K-12 student/parent handbook.



We also want to remind families of the many supports available to help us care for the whole child. This commitment is reflected in the wide range of resources we provide, including:

- **School Counselors**, available to all students.
- **Hazel Health online counseling services**, offered at no cost to every student.
- **School-based Alta social workers**, available to students with appropriate insurance coverage.
- **Additional schoolwide programs** that promote student well-being, such as **Sources of Strength**, **Character Avengers**, our **Food and Clothing Pantry**, the **Vision Van**, and other initiatives designed to support students academically, socially, and emotionally.
- When student needs extend beyond our internal services, we partner closely with families to help identify and connect them with appropriate external supports.

Should there be a situation that is disruptive to your child's well being, it is important that the situation be brought to the attention of the school counselors, principal, assistant principal, and/or superintendent in a timely manner. For serious or time-sensitive concerns, we encourage families or students to make use of our **24/7 Bully Safety Tipline**. Early reporting is essential in helping us ensure a safe and positive school environment.

24/7 Bully Safety Tipline

Phone: 330-965-2848

Online: lowellville.tipline.info

Thank you for your continued cooperation, support, and commitment to fostering a school community built on respect, compassion, and shared responsibility. By the school and home working together we can ensure that every student at Lowellville Local Schools learns and grows in an environment that promotes safety, empathy, and success.

With appreciation,

Lowellville Local Schools Administration and Board of Education


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Helping Children Navigate Conflict in Healthy Ways

At school, we respond to every report of bullying, intimidation, harassment or any other behavior that interferes with a student's wellbeing. However, many situations we investigate are not defined as bullying but are instead examples of students being unkind or struggling to manage normal conflict. While we can give consequences here at school, long-term change begins at home with ongoing conversations about character, respect, and how we treat others.

One of the most important skills we can teach children is **how to not like someone without becoming hurtful**. As adults, we know we won't get along with everyone. Kids need to learn that too—but how they handle it reflects their character. Here are the key skills we teach students here at school and encourage you to reinforce at home:

1. It doesn't have to be public knowledge.

You don't have to let everyone know that you don't like someone. You don't need to gossip or share their business with others—this only makes the conflict worse.

2. Don't bring people down to build yourself up.

Just because you don't like someone doesn't mean they don't deserve to like themselves. Your goal should never be to make someone feel bad about who they are.

3. Don't isolate or exclude.

You can choose not to spend your time with someone, but it's never okay to isolate or exclude someone from group activities.

4. Don't turn your conflict with someone into a group problem

There may be a reason you don't like someone, but that does not mean you need to recruit others not to like them. If it's a personality conflict, not everyone is going to have the same issue you do.

5. Use good communication skills to respectfully set your boundaries.

If you can, try talking through the issue first. If that doesn't work, it's okay to say, 'I need some space right now.'

Ultimately, it's okay not to get along with everyone—but how you handle it matters. We see every day how much kids mirror the behavior they see around them. When you turn on the TV or look at social media, you will see people being unkind, tearing one another down, and name-calling. We need to teach our kids that just because you don't like someone, you don't have to display inappropriate behaviors towards them. You do not need to be everyone's friend but you can still be friendly and share the same space.

We ask for your support at home to help students practice these skills and grow into kind, respectful young people who can handle conflict in a positive way.