

West Branch Local Schools



Bully Prevention Program

School Climate Mission:

We are committed at West Branch to create a bully free environment. **RESPECT** for others plays a critical role in the development of **WARRIORPRIDE** with every student who attends West Branch.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call, email, or set an appointment to meet with any of our teachers, principals, and counselors.

Together we can provide a safe environment for our students to learn.

What is Normal Peer Conflict?

- Students have **equal power** or are friends.
- It happens **occasionally**.
- It can be **accidental**.
- There is an equal emotional **reaction** by both parties.
- **No** student is seeking power.
- The student takes **responsibility** and is remorseful.
- The student makes an **effort to solve** the problem.

WARRIORPRIDE Expectation:

- I will not bully others.
- If I “witness” somebody being bullied, I will tell an adult.
- I will help students who are being bullied.
- I will “witness” students who are easily left out and include them.



Your Child May Be the Bully if He or She...

- Lacks empathy and does not show sympathy to others
- Values aggression
- Likes to be in charge
- Is an arrogant winner or a sore loser
- Is impulsive

How to Help Your Child Stop Bullying...

- Take it seriously
- Talk to your child, why?
- Help build empathy for others
- Talk to your child’s teachers/principal/counselors
- Ask if someone at home is bullying your child

Students who bully are more likely to do poorly in school, smoke and drink alcohol, and commit crimes in the future.

Is Bullying a Problem?

Bullying is...

- Directed at one or more students that is intended to harm or embarrass
- Involves an imbalance of physical, emotional, or social power
- Is repeated over time

Harassment is...

- Unwanted conduct based on a protected class (race, national origin, color, gender, age, disability, religion) that is severe, pervasive, or persistent and creates a hostile environment
- Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) which can include advances, request or other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

Cyberbullying is...

- Bullying undertaken through use of electronic devices, including but not limited to telephones, cell phones, wireless telecommunication devices, text message, e-mails, social networking sites, videos, websites or fake profiles will not be tolerated.
- If you believe student behaviors constitute a violation of the policy of West Branch Local Schools, you may report this matter in writing and (can be) anonymously to any staff member of this school.

Students who are bullied are more likely to do poorly in school, have low self-esteem, be depressed and turn to violent behavior. Students who are bullied tend not to want to come to school or ride the school bus.

Signs to Watch for...

- Withdrawal/depression
- Suddenly doesn’t want to go to school
- Bruises
- Drop in grades, need extra money or supplies

How to Respond...

- Take your child seriously
- Talk to your child’s teacher/principal/guidance counselor
- Teach non-violent ways to deal with bullies
- Help your child act with self-confidence
- Don’t encourage your child to fight

Students Who are Bullied...

- Want approval from their peers
- May seem insecure
- Won’t tell on their bullies or won’t tell on those who are bullying them