

## Olweus Bullying Prevention Program: A School Based Bullying Prevention Program

St. Timothy School is excited to announce that we will be implementing a revamped and updated version of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to address bullying and disrespectful behavior by children in grades K-8.

The Olweus bullying prevention program is a systematic, comprehensive and standardized program that is research based and is recognized as a SAMHSA Model Program. It involves the total effort of all school staff (including teachers, principals, guidance counselors, cafeteria workers, playground volunteers, bus drivers, etc.) as well as students, parents, and other members of the community, to reduce bullying and disrespectful behavior. Important components of the program include: school wide anti-bullying rules, a standardized method of intervening in a bullying situation, negative consequences for bullying behavior, and positive recognition of respectful, compassionate behaviors.

### **School Wide Anti-Bullying Rules and Virtues**

1. Respect: We will not bully others.
2. Compassion: We will include students who are easily left out.
3. Integrity: When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school or an adult at home.
4. Fortitude: We will try to help students who are bullied.

### **What is bullying?**

According to our Student Handbook, bullying is: prohibited and is defined as *one or more* actions of abusive treatment of another. Examples include but are not limited to:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) Physical intimidation or assault | f) Name calling                                      |
| b) Extortion                        | g) Threatening looks                                 |
| c) Oral or written threats          | h) Gestures or acts of aggression (Overt and Covert) |
| d) Teasing                          | i) Cruel rumors & false accusations                  |
| e) Putdowns                         | j) Social Isolation                                  |

In addition, it is important to note that bullying implies an *imbalance in power or strength* and the student who is being bullied has difficulty defending himself/herself. It is not bullying when the teasing is done in a friendly or playful way. Also, it is not bullying when two students of about equal strength or power argue or fight.

### **Negative Consequences**

**Grade K-3:** Students who engage in bullying behavior will complete a S.T.O.P sheet which will be sent home to be signed. These forms must be returned the following day.

**Grade 4-8:** Students who engage in bullying behavior will receive a demerit. The signed demerit form must be returned the following day.

\*A severe clause for egregious behavior applies to all ages and will be determined by the administration.

### **Positive Consequences**

Students who demonstrate virtuous behavior will be recognized with a "Tiger Paw". These students will be eligible to participate in a reward activity.