

Expect the Best

A 2014 Re-Designated Pennsylvania and National Schools to Watch Middle School

September 16, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am pleased to share with you that we are continuing with our anti-bullying program. We are in our fifth year of implementing this comprehensive program. During our first year, the start-up costs associated with the program were funded by a grant and led by a committee of faculty and staff members.

Everyone at Canonsburg Middle School cares about the safety and well-being of our students and your children. The literature and research identifies the middle level grades as the time bullying peaks (primarily grades 5 through 9). In a proactive effort to do our part to both stop and prevent bullying, we have adopted components of the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*. This research-based program has been used successfully in schools all over the country and around the world with positive results.

The Canonsburg Middle School Anti-Bullying Program is for all students, not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others. The goals of the program are:

- To reduce existing bullying problems amongst students;
- To prevent the development of new bullying problems;
- To strengthen relationships among students.

Unlike other programs that have a beginning and end, this structured school-wide program is ongoing. Students participate in class meetings to learn about the effects of bullying and how they can be empowered to put a stop to it.

Bullying is not normal or just “kids being kids”. We implemented our anti-bullying program to help reduce such actions that are taking place in school. We know that we cannot totally eliminate the problem, but we certainly believe in doing our part to promote a safe school experience.

We will be kicking off our anti-bullying program with a guest speaker from the Attorney General’s Office. Special Agent Phillip Little will be discussing the legal and emotional impact of bullying to the student body on September 23rd.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact either of our counselors, Mr. Gillespie and Mrs. Hedderman. In addition, Mr Manion, student council sponsor, helps Mrs. Hedderman in taking a lead role with our Canonsburg Middle School Anti-Bullying Program student meetings and can be of assistance as well.

Thank you,

Dr. Taranto
Principal

*The Mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to invest in our greatest resource, our students. We strive to teach, challenge and support all students to prepare them for college and careers with the information and skills necessary to compete, achieve and serve as leaders in a global economy as ethical and responsible citizens.
We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.*