

SHCSD BULLYING MESSAGE

Bullying is an intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has **less** power and has a hard time defending themselves or simply cannot defend themselves. Bullying is unjustified and typically is repeated.

Fighting is intentional harm doing, but the power is relatively **equal**. Both sides can defend themselves. It's social conflict. Not getting along. Both sides play a part in the dispute.

Bullying can take many forms. In today's society, **cyberbullying** by way of social media sites is the fastest trend of bullying incidents among young people. Please know, though, the school **cannot** investigate and/or enforce consequences for cyberbullying that is done outside of school. If your child is being harassed online, outside of school, please call the State Police. Also, please know that SHC Chronicle is **not** affiliated with our school and is an uncensored site. Other forms of bullying are **physical** bullying (pushing, shoving), **verbal** bullying (name calls), **emotional** bullying (rumors, gossiping, social manipulation), **intentional exclusion**, **gender** bullying, and **racial** bullying.

Very recently at the Southern Huntingdon HS/MS, we have noticed an increase in bullying incidents and fighting incidents. As you can see from the definitions above, there **is** a difference between the two actions. Please know we take any bullying and fighting extremely seriously. Schools are a place to feel safe and secure and to feel comfortable while learning, and not have to feel distracted with unnecessary drama. Please report or have your child report to any school official any bullying or social conflict with peers they are experiencing that is negatively affecting them. We cannot help diffuse a situation if we do not have any prior knowledge of the conflict. School personnel you can contact are:

Mr. Dwayne Northcraft - dnorthcraft@shcsd.org ext. 2505/2606 - Principal/Superintendent

Mrs. Sarah Griest – sgriest@shcsd.org ext. 2507 - Director of Curriculum

Mr. Ryan Wilt - rwilt@shcsd.org ext. 2505 - Middle School Counselor (6-8)

Mrs. Bethany Fischer – bfischer@shcsd.org ext. 2513 - High School Counselor (9-12)

Mrs. Tasha Goshorn – tgoshorn@shcsd.org ext. 2122 - Social Worker

Mrs. Angie Haupt - ahaupt@shcsd.org ext. 2217 - Social Worker

Mrs. Emily Parson - eparson@shcsd.org ext. 2222 - Emotional Support Teacher

Mr. Dean Sarra - dsarra@shcsd.org ext. 2504 - School Resource Officer

Mr. Russ Miller - rmiller@shcsd.org ext. 2504 - School Resource Officer

You may also report any bullying to the Safe To Say Something (S2SS) Hotline.

1-844-SAF2SAY

1-844-723-2729

Or text to 738477

Or SAFE2SAY.ORG

Once we are made aware of any potential bullying or fighting, we intervene with the situation as fast as possible. The team of school officials listed above work together and communicate with each other to make sure the situation is investigated. This might entail the school official meeting with a student 1 on 1, having a mediation between 2 or more students, talking to witnesses, and even viewing the school security cameras. Once the investigations are done, it is then determined whether school discipline and consequences will be administered. Parent contact for both sides are also made. The student's team of teachers are also made aware so they can keep their eyes and ears open to any further behaviors.

You can also view SHC's bullying policy on pages 24-26 in the HS/MS Handbook under Parent Resources.

Not only do we intervene as fast as possible with bullying and fighting situations, but we also have monthly, anti-bullying lessons in Grades 6 -12. These lessons cover a variety of bullying topics and even teaches Character Education. We also really enjoy rewarding students with \$10 gift cards through our Caught You Being Good (CYBG) Program. This program allows faculty and staff to fill out a CYBG Ticket on a student that is "caught" showing and displaying anti-bullying behaviors. The ticket then goes into the HS or MS CYBG Box in the Main Office, and at the end of each month, a random drawing is done. One middle school and one high school winner is drawn and rewarded.

Please feel free to reach out to one of us if you have any questions or concerns as to how we handle bullying and fighting situations at SHC. We truly have a passion to making our school the best that it can be, and we all have to work together and do our part to make this happen.

