



WALDEN GREEN
MONTESSORI



A PEACEFUL EDUCATION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the peaceful learning environment at our school, we are implementing a prevention program to reduce mean and aggressive behavior and bullying. This program includes staff training, student training and parent education based on the work of Dr. Marcia McEvoy - a widely recognized expert in the field of school aggression and bullying prevention. This program trains the staff on policies and procedures for intervening consistently using a shared common language with specific consequences for aggressive behavior. The program has a set of rubrics (rules) based on objective behavior standards. Specific consequences have been developed for specific kinds of aggressive behavior. Students in schools with a rubric-based approach know how discipline is handled and are clear on the expectations for behavior in a variety of school settings. The program also focuses on how to model, teach, and reinforce pro-social behaviors such as respect for others, caring and empathic behaviors, in building positive relationships with other students and staff members.

The student components of the program teaches students how to both identify and effectively respond to behavior, and how to get adult help if they're proactive responses are not stopping it. Just as important, students are taught in many strategies and how to be a "good bystander" when they are watching someone getting picked on or socially isolated. Bystander training is critical and changing students' behavior and In shaping positive social norms.

Sometimes when a school implements this kind of program, the response from outside the school is that the school is being "too picky" or that aggressive behavior is "just kids being kids." However, the **research is clear**: *if a school consistently addresses the small stuff, they seldom see behavior escalate into more serious forms of aggression.* Our ultimate goal is to make all students feel safe and help them reach their full potential. We are broadening our definition of mean teasing and other hurtful behaviors to be able to "sweat the small stuff." We know that aggressive behavior can come with the guise of "just kidding" or "we were just horsing around" types of behaviors. We also know that the recipients of this type of behavior seldom interpret it in the same benign and are frequently negatively affected by it.

Please review and become familiar with the supplemental resources included in this communication. They will provide additional detail on components of our program.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership from home!



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Mean Behavior is any mean look, gesture, word, or action that hurts a person's body, feelings, friendships, reputation, or property. Whether it's meant or not, it's not how you see it, but how they feel it!

Mean Behavior is when anyone inflicts or threatens to inflict physical or emotional injury or discomfort upon another person's body, feeling, friendships, reputation, or possessions. Injury or discomfort is based on how it is received, regardless of the intent.

**EXPECT RESPECT.
MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES.**

A positive choice NEVER includes mean or hurtful...

- Looks
- Gestures
- Words
- Actions

A positive choice NEVER includes mistreatment towards a person's...

- Body
- Feelings
- Friendships
- Reputation
- Property

**WHETHER IT IS MEANT OR NOT, IT IS NOT HOW YOU SEE IT,
BUT HOW THEY FEEL IT!**

RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.



NICE BEHAVIORS ARE...

KIND LOOKS	KIND GESTURES	KIND WORDS	KIND ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly smile - happy face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high five - thumbs up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "hello" & "hi" - "please" & "thank you" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing & caring - helping & serving

THAT ARE GOOD FOR MY...

BODY	FEELINGS	FRIENDSHIPS	PROPERTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personal safety - personal health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - happiness - joyfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making new friends - keeping friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personal belongings - school materials



THE LINE

MEAN BEHAVIORS ARE...

MEAN LOOKS	MEAN GESTURES	MEAN WORDS	MEAN ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eye rolling - glaring or sneering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hand signs - intimidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name calling or teasing - gossiping or threatening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pushing or shoving - punching or kicking

THAT WILL HURT MY...

BODY	FEELINGS	FRIENDSHIPS	PROPERTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical pain - emotional pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sadness - loneliness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fewer friends - losing friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - damaged items - loss of items