

A sampling of Character Education Lessons from District Teachers and Administrators:

“The last week in January is "National No-Name Calling Week." My Advisor-based (AB) Class service project revolves around this theme. This year was designated "Celebrate Kindness." We created cards with a logo of a dog print. These cards were distributed to the AB's. Personal messages were created for each fifth grade student at LMS. My AB and Zee [Mrs. Stelzer's therapy dog] delivered the notes. We attached the notes to Zee, and she walked around the students as they pulled an attached message from a pocket on her vest. My students introduced themselves and made a few comments about our project and AB's purpose. Daily announcements were made by my students to help us focus and pledges were signed by AB's to celebrate kindness through the words we speak.”

--Linda Stelzer, Liberty Middle School 6th Grade Reading Teacher

“I teach bullying during health classes this year. We have discussions about what bullying is and how to prevent and stop it. I provide situations, and we discuss how they would handle different situations, including those in school and off school grounds. We even talk about social media situations and how to handle bullying.”

--Erica Stevens, Liberty Middle School Girls' PE Teacher

“I discuss character development in Boys Health (7-8); bullying is discussed both in identifying and prevention.”

--Ron Hill, Liberty Middle School Boys' PE Teacher

“1) I meet with each class on the first and second day of the year. One of my topics is harassment and we discuss what that means and my mantra, "Look out for each other.”

2) We have character building lessons with AB classes on Tuesdays--some of those involve bullying discussions. The school counselor puts those together.

3) Katie Wilson directs a cyberbullying awareness week in October.

4) Individually, the school counselor and I work with kids as bullying comes up during the year. This is both a discipline and a counseling approach.”

--Tony Helfrich, Liberty Middle School Principal

“One of our "Big Idea" assemblies addressed bullying by addressing “Courage” (to stand up to bullying). We also addressed bullying at Superfrog assemblies with the entire student body three different times when we discussed Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.

Southwest also celebrated anti-bullying week in Oct and “Too Cool to Bully Day” on Oct 10.”

--Jason May, Principal at Southwest Elementary School

“I do a two-lesson unit in the fall about bullying. The theme is always, "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully.” These are the questions/topics I use. Delivery depends on the age level.

Do you have friends?

What is bullying?

What age are bullies?

Where does bullying happen?

Why do you like about your friend?

Is arguing the same thing as bullying?

Discuss & chart the difference between teasing and bullying

How to deal with a bully

Try to make friends with a bully

Stay away from a bully

Stay with your friends if a bully is near

Tell an adult

Discuss & chart the difference between teasing and bullying”

--Angie Forshee, Counselor at Southwest Elementary

At the start of each year, the principal and I meet with each class, 9-12. We discuss the differences between peer conflict and bullying and give examples of each. I then give several examples and have them differentiate between the two concepts.

8th Graders:

I meet with the incoming freshmen in May. It is a "Transition to High School" discussion where I highlight several things and give them a chance to ask me questions. It is very informal, trying to dispel any fears or concerns. During this talk, I go into the differences between peer conflict and bullying, and we talk about how they as leaders can work to help eliminate these behaviors and how they can report these anonymously if they see them occurring. “

--Curtis Nightingale, Assistant Principal at Pratt High School