

Eric Smith Middle School- School Climate and Anti Bullying Initiatives

Eric S. Smith Middle School has an extensive anti-bullying education program and policy with a clear set of procedures that address inappropriate behavior. The education of students on this topic begins on the first day of school at the Grade Level Meetings where Ms. Poelstra and Ms. Scimanico explain the expectations and consequences related to bullying. Students review the definition of bullying behavior, the importance of respect and empathy, and actions that should be taken in bullying situations. Create a Positive Classroom poster with this information is displayed in every classroom and reinforced throughout the year in an ongoing series of lessons, activities, assemblies, and seminars.

In addition, there is a comprehensive Character Education Program that teaches students to respect and care about others, establishing supportive relationships between teachers and students. Relationships provide the vehicle for communication, support, and the development of ethical decision-making. The Character Education Program includes a very active Community Service Program that provides students the opportunity to help others and to develop feelings of empathy, community, and social responsibility. One of the primary goals of our Character Education program is for each student at the middle school to feel that there is at least one adult that he/she can trust and go to for advice and help.

Some examples of programs for both the anti-bullying and Character Education Program include:

- 6th Grade Lunch Bunches
- Week of Respect
- Anti-Violence Week
- Anti-Violence Feedback Groups
- Peer Leadership
- Social Skills Curriculum
- Character Education Intramural Program
- Character Education After School Clubs
- Charity Challenge
- All Wrapped Up
- Relay For Life
- Dare Club
- Assemblies
 - John Halligan
 - Bergen County Prosecutor's Office
 - Institute for Online and Cell Phone Communication
- Parent Programs
 - 6TH Grade Parent Seminar
 - Parent Book Club

Please visit the Eric S. Smith Middle School Website for additional information about our anti-bullying initiatives or character education programs.

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