



FAIRHOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT CONTRACT

The Baldwin County School System believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The system, schools, and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance. Fairhope Middle School will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student.

What is school bullying?

School bullying is when one or more students repeatedly act towards another less powerful student in a way which is intended to hurt, intimidate, or diminish that other student. Bullying is seen by many researchers as referring to a cluster of different behaviors, unified by the theme of aggression. These behaviors are generally categorized as follows:

- ✚ **Relational bullying** is sometimes referred to as “social” or “psychological” bullying. This takes the form of disrupting another student’s peer relationships through gossiping, whispering and spreading rumors. It also includes turning your back on them, giving them the silent treatment, or leaving them out.
- ✚ **Cyber-bullying-** in contrast to face to face bullying, cyber-bullying is social bullying through the use of technology that is done to harass, intimidate, or hurt someone through social network sites, instant messaging, texting, chat rooms, postings on web pages or blogs.
- ✚ **Verbal bullying-** such as threatening, taunting, intimidating, insulting, sarcasm, teasing, ridiculing, making faces, rolling eyes and other gestures.
- ✚ **Physical bullying-** both to the person (such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, pinching, holding down) and to their possessions (through extorting money, stealing or causing their possessions damage).
- ✚ **Sexual bullying-** sexual bullying is often referred to as sexual harassment, which includes unwanted sexual attention and comments, gender-demeaning remarks and jokes, using sexually offensive names, circulating pornography, touching the private parts of another student’s body, molestation, and sexual assault.

Reporting Procedures:

- Tell a teacher or another adult at school. Complete a Student Harassment and Bullying Complaint form located in the Counselor’s Office. You may also report it online on the school website.
- A Counselor or Administrator will review and investigate the report from the student and/or reporting adult to verify bullying/harassment acts. Student reports that are found to have been intentionally filed under false pretenses or in retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Report cyber-bullying to a parent/legal guardian. Students may also report this to school personnel.

Disciplinary Action:

- Student offenders will be disciplined in a progressive manner which may include warnings, detention, suspension, and recommendation for expulsion. **Depending on the infraction, law enforcement may be involved.**
- Interventions to correct inappropriate behaviors may include but are not limited to counseling and intervention meetings.

I _____ have read the Fairhope Middle School Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy. I have had an opportunity to clarify my understanding of bullying during the presentation of this policy. I understand that the choices I make can either positively or negatively impact my peers. I have a clear understanding of what bullying is and agree not to participate in relational, verbal, physical or sexual bullying. Furthermore, I clearly understand that every student, teacher, and staff member at Fairhope Middle School has the right to work and learn in a safe and bully-free environment.

Student Name (Print) Grade Parent Name (Print) Date

Student Signature Date Parent Signature Date

***Return this form to your homeroom teacher.**