

Rockville Centre Union Free School District



South Side Middle School
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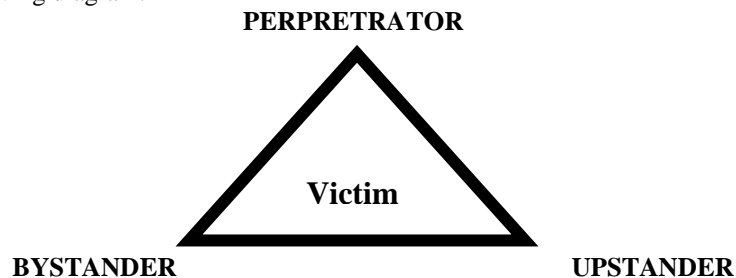
Dear Parents,

The Administrators, Teachers, Support Personnel, and students are continuing our journey to stamp out bullying in our school. As you are well aware from various media reports, the results of bullying have included serious physical injury as well as emotional stress for students in several Long Island communities. We at South Side Middle School are dedicating our energies to making our school a safe and nurturing environment.

In order to meet our goal of achieving a comfortable and safe learning environment for students, school rules will be strictly enforced. We have instituted a *No-Touch* Policy which has been explained to students at various assemblies and meetings. Children have been told that pushing, hitting, or *touching* another student will result in *out-of-school* suspension. Students know that excuses such as:

- ◆ *We were just playing*
- ◆ *We were only fooling*
- ◆ *But really, we're friends*
- ◆ *But we do this all the time*

are *entirely* unacceptable and appropriate consequences will ensue, i.e., suspension from school. Please be aware that along with the above we are working in a positive fashion to formulate a common language concerning bullying. During lunch study meetings students will be discussing the following diagram.



We will facilitate a discussion of this schematic and will carefully define the terms illustrated. It is our desire to show support for victims, empower rescuers, energize bystanders so they become rescuers, and negate the power of perpetrators by exclusion from the school community.

We are asking your cooperation by requesting that you carefully read and sign the attached pledge. Your signature will represent another blow against the needless violence that has harmed so many children in schools. Your children, our students, have also been asked to participate actively by signing the student pledge designed to raise awareness concerning their own role in eradicating violent behavior. Both pledges should be returned to your child's advisory teacher.

Please discuss these issues with your children and ask them to keep you aware of our efforts in combating bullying at South Side Middle School.

Yours truly,

Shelagh McGinn