

Bullying and Harassment

Rumors. Teasing. “Accidental” pushing. Exclusion. Threats. Name-calling. A big concern in middle school, both nationwide and here at LSMS, is the bullying and harassment that some students experience at school. We have a school plan to educate students about how to respond to bullying as well as how to avoid being drawn into these cruel behaviors. Our counselors visited all classes early in the school year to teach a lesson on this topic. They taught a second lesson mid-year. Bi-monthly advisory groups also include this topic in their curriculum.

Next week there will be another element in our efforts to combat bullying and harassment. While seventh graders write the final WASL writing test, sixth graders will gather in the gym to watch a video called “Let’s Get Real.” It was created by the Respect for All Project, and examines bullying from a wide range of perspectives. Real students discuss racial differences, religious differences, sexual harassment, perceived sexual orientation, and more. The video has real insults with real language that real kids use with each other. We feel that the message is powerful. You can find out more about this video by going to the website www.respectforall.org After viewing the 35-minute film, students will meet in small groups to participate in a role-playing activity that fosters empathy and models peaceful ways to communicate.

We encourage you to talk to your child about this issue. We want our kids to be protected from harassment and bullying when they go out into the world, and we also want them not to be tempted to join in when bullying is brewing. The more you talk about it at home, the more strategies your child will have.