



Anti-Bullying Efforts

2018-2109 School Year

Proactive: St. Peter's Approach to Anti-Bullying

St. Peter's Lutheran School is committed to educating and caring for all aspects of our students: spiritual, academic, physical and emotional. Fostering a healthy, safe school climate is a priority in meeting all of these needs.

Being proactive is our goal to limit bullying at St. Peter's. This includes:

- Annual student climate surveys to measure the students' perspective of bullying at St. Peter's;
- Ongoing teacher engagement and supervision ;
- Regular classroom lessons presented by the school counselor, Violet Dickerson, that include: How to be an effective ally, problem solving, and teaching students ways to include others ;
- Regular communication among administration, teachers, and parents.

Three Ongoing Initiatives

1) You Can't Say, "You, Can't Play"

"You, can't say, You, can't play" was created by a kindergarten teacher, Vivian Gussin Paley, and teaches young children that excluding others is not ok. This new, initiative is in line with the *Golden Rule and Romans 15:7* and will be taught to students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade.

2) "Buddy Bench."

The Buddy Bench is a designated bench on the playground where a student wishing to find a friend or join in on an activity can sit. The students will be coached to use the buddy bench when they are feeling left out or in need of a recess activity. Additionally, students will be coached to look out for others who are sitting on the Buddy Bench and invite them to play.

3) School Climate Survey

A school climate survey will be conducted every winter to continue gathering data on bullying, belonging, and the overall climate of our school. This data is useful in evaluating the feel of our school and to develop new initiatives if necessary.

4) Recess Council

In order to put quality play back into recess, a **Recess Council** will be created which will consist of students from grades 3-6. Students and two advisors will work together to simplify game rules and set expectations so all students may enjoy a fun, safe recess.

Please regularly pray that all of our students feel included and safe. If you would like to know more about these initiatives or our anti-bullying policies, please contact our school counselor, Violet Dickerson, at vdickerson@stpeters-columbus.org.