

1. What is the process for bullying and reporting in your school?

This is a huge question that we get from parents and students all the time. The answer is not as simple as what people may think. First, I will address the idea of bullying. When students are asked if they have been bullied more often than not their answer is yes. When the staff look into these instances, we often find that it is not bullying but friends fighting or someone just not being nice. Although the students deem this as bullying, it really isn't.

Bullying is defined as :

- incidents that are happening over and over again over an extended period of time
- have an imbalance of power
- usually aggressive in nature

When we have a reported incident of bullying we take a great deal of time to investigate the concern.

- We often find that both individuals have played a part but one may not want to accept ownership for their part and neglect to tell their parents.
- There is usually a larger picture than what is being shared with parents.

As for reporting concerns to the school, we ask that parents begin by contacting the teachers. Although Nicole and I try to keep on top of everything that is going on, there are times when a situation has occurred and it has not been brought to the office as the teacher has dealt with it. The teacher will often have information about the incident or will look into it.

Supervisors play a huge role in the safety of our students. They help students solve problems on a daily basis. If students do not go to a supervisor or report a problem to the classroom teacher, we cannot help. This is very important for everyone to remember when a child comes home and reports an issue. The first question that should be asked is "Did you go to a supervisor?" If the answer is "no", then there needs to be a further discussion with your child about the importance of reporting. We have 3 teacher supervisors and 3 Educational Assistants outside on the playground. They wear vests and are visible. Students must seek them out if they require assistance.