



## **Bullying Prevention at LCMS**

At LCMS we strive to not only decrease bullying incidents on campus but PREVENT them as well. Please read below for some of our prevention events and programs.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – Within the first two weeks of school, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students view a presentation titled “Meet the Dean” where Mr. Todd, LCMS Administrative Dean of Student Discipline introduces himself and LCMS policies/procedures. During this presentation, Mr. Todd provides the students with a strong message regarding what bullying is, how to report bullying, and ways to protect yourself against bullying behaviors. In addition, most 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in the LCMS **Life Skills** class where the instructor, Coach Thompson, reviews those skills necessary to succeed socially in middle school. During the course of the semester LCMS’ School Resource Officer, Ashley Jones visits the class and continues lessons on how to treat each other respectfully. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders also have the opportunity to join the anti-bullying student team, Panthers for Peace.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – Due to the delicate stage of adolescence experienced by the 7<sup>th</sup> grader, LCMS provides a great deal of support in regards to anti-bullying efforts. In partnership with SCPS and the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida we are involved in an initiative called **The UpStanders: Stand Up to Bullying**. This is a multifaceted year long program that uses the history and lessons of the Holocaust, in particular the stories of Rescuers or Righteous Gentiles, to inspire students to become UpStanders rather than bystanders. Students are taught how and when to intervene in bullying situations. The goal is to make the community one in which diversity is celebrated and everyone feels respected and safe. The final event of the program will be a presentation by Mitch Bloomer, the Holocaust Center's resource teacher. He introduces the concept of bystanders and rescuers by talking about the Holocaust era heroes such as Mip Geis, Irena Sendler, and Oskar Schindler who risked their lives to save the Jews. Students are asked the question, "What would you do?" This event will run through Civics classes all day on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – We’ve all experienced the frustration of our teens knowing more about the computer or other technologies than we. However, in an effort to educate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders about the dangers lurking on the internet, our School Resource Officer, Ashley Jones partnered with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to provide a powerful presentation regarding CyberBullying to all our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This presentation allowed our students to see how an innocent communication could turn into something with drastic consequences. Our students were provided with safety advice and contact information should they ever feel bullied in school or online.

**Social Personal Class** – This class is provided to our ESE student population. The purpose of the class is to assist students with special needs with Social Skills relevant to the school setting.

**Panthers for Peace** – This is a student organization led by a leadership team whose is to prepare for, prevent, and identity bullying. This group is a wonderful opportunity for students who are passionate about helping others.

**Positive Behavior Support** – The Positive Behavior Support Team (PBS) is made up of teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators who are dedicated to teaching our students the four expectations of LCMS Students: Respect, Encouragement, Preparedness, and Responsibility. The idea of PBS is to TEACH our students HOW to behave, rather than assuming all students KNOW HOW to behave as we want them too.

**Anti-Bullying Speaker** –Last year we were fortunate to have Marc Mero and the Champions of Choices tour speak to all 1240 of our students. Marc Mero educated the students about the negative impacts of bullying and reaches them at a heart level though his own personal experiences, minds are changed, school cultures are transformed – and lives are forever touched by this 70-minute program. This year’s speaker is still is the workings.

Frank Todd  
Dean of Students  
Lawton Chiles Middle School  
Frank\_Todd@scps.k12.fl.us