

Heritage School District #8



Superintendent, Tom Davis; K-8 Principal, Kristi Sanders; HS Principal, Corey White
District Office: 512 W. First Street, Homer, IL 61849
Phone 217-896-2041 Fax 217-896-2338

August 16, 2019

To: Heritage School District Parents, Guardians, Stakeholders

From: Tom Davis, Heritage Schools Superintendent

Re: Bullying & Cyberbullying Prevention, Intervention, & Reporting

Dear Parents/Guardians/Stakeholders:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the Heritage School District's anti-bullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied.

The Heritage School Board policy (adopted July 16, 2018) on bullying begins with this goals statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.

Board of Education: John Lannon-President, Robert Benscheider, Kimberly Keniley-Ashbrook,
Courtney Montgomery, Curt Elmore, Darrin Tate, Zach Wells

4. Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

I asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will send the student to the main office in order to fill out our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying and School Violence*, a copy of which is available at our Heritage School web site under the Parent's Section header at www.heritage8.org. The school and Principal will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

I also asked our staff members for their feedback and concerns specifically regarding locations that may be bullying *hot spots* needing additional supervision or monitoring or if there are any known bullies or targets of bullying in our building. I want to ask you to do the same thing. Please inform me if you know of any bullying *hot spots* in or around our school, or if you are aware of a known bully or target of bullying.

Finally, I requested our staff members to intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. They will immediately contact building security and or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Below are some of the signs that a young person is being bullied:

- Does not want to go to school and refuses to explain the reason
- Talks about not having any friends
- Has unexplained bruises, cuts, scratches, or abrasions
- Has unexplained damage to clothing, possessions, books, etc.
- Frequently loses money or possessions
- Loses interest in school and/or has declining grades
- Becomes withdrawn and/or has stress or depression symptoms

These signs do not necessarily mean your child is being bullied, but if present, ask your child whether he or she is being bullied.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by contacting me at 217-896-2421 ext. 35 and/or e-mail to tom.davis@heritage8.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a stylized "D".

Tom Davis
Heritage CUSD #8 Superintendent