

# Vista Magnet Middle School

## Anti-Bullying Campaign

### 2010-2012

Vista Magnet Middle School has worked intensely on an anti-bullying campaign to ensure all students feel a sense of belonging while on our campus. VMMS has a zero tolerance policy against bullying. When bullying does occur the students are immediately sent to the Assistant Principal or School Counselor where action is taken. VMMS has taken numerous steps to prevent and cease bullying on our campus.

#### **2010-2011 Teen Truth Assembly, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school**

1. On our second day of school, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a speaker from Teen Truth: An Inside Look at Bullying and School Violence presented to our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students completed permission slips in order to attend the assembly. Out of just over 600 students only about 15 did not attend (most due to not remembering the permission slip).

#### **2011-2012 Cyber Bulling Assembly, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school**

On our second day of school, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, by Jon Moffatt, Prevention Specialist, Vista Community Clinic. Mr. Moffatt will provide an interactive, multi-media presentation that incorporates an informative presentation **with** current information of today's social networking (e.g. Facebook and Skype) and its dangers.

2. a program specialist from Vista Clinic presented on presented to our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students completed permission slips in order to attend the assembly. Out of just over 600 students only about 15 did not attend (most due to not remembering the permission slip).

#### **Reflective Student Exercise**

3. After the assembly last year, teachers reflected with the students on the message of the presenter and challenged themselves with taking the challenge "Join the Movement Be The Difference" Students shared (see **attached**):

I will include the excluded in our group. –Rosie;

To help people. –Violet;

I will stand up for any people who are getting bullied. –Eric.

Overall, the presentation was an excellent way to begin the year by bringing awareness to bullying and setting expectations for our school.

#### **Peer Mediation**

4. Peer Mediation is another avenue in which VMMS works towards supporting its students. The Peer Mediators, lead by the school counselor, are trained in conflict mediation and act as role models, leading students to be accepting of each other. They work with students to solve their conflicts through listening and verbalizing the issue.

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#### Administration "shift in philosophy"

5. Students have been encouraged to be more reflective thinkers when continued defiance and disruptions occur. One example, **attached**, is a PowerPoint titled "Bullying and Teasing" which two students last spring designed who were serving one week of morning and lunch detention for an incident that transformed from teasing to bullying. These two students learned more from creating such a presentation than simply having them sit in detention. Students have access to library computers and magazines such as Teaching Tolerance as a resource for their reflection.

#### Anti Bullying Curriculum

6. The Peer Mediators are also taking another stand against bullying by presenting follow up activities on the information provided from the assembly. The Mediators have taken different activities from the Teen Truth curriculum to present to all of the students as a reminder about bullying and school violence. Some of the activities include; discussions on perspectives of bullying, bullying skits, and reflections of bullying. Each month the Peer Mediators will be presenting activities from the Teen Truth curriculum in every PE class. **A few examples of the activities are below:**

#### **BULLY OR NOT?**

The students are given different scenarios to decide if the behaviors are bullying or not. The decisions are tallied and the group discusses why some scenarios were considered bullying while others were not.

#### **REFLECTIONS**

Students will choose a quote from the presentation to write a reflection about. The Mediators will lead discussion on how the students felt about the comments.

#### **MY PERSPECTIVE**

Different topics of school violence are presented. The students vote on which topic they would like to discuss and complete a class "thought map".