

Dear Toano Tiger Parent/Guardian:

Toano Middle School takes bullying very seriously. As educators and counselors, our administrative team will provide a bullying awareness program which will empower your child to recognize and deal with bullies. Our teaching staff will work with this team in promoting a new focus each month through counselor classroom visits; Tiger Talk morning announcements; letters sent home; mapping; personal messages published electronically on ed line and on our web page; and open discussion.

In the next few weeks Ms. White and Ms. Bracken, School Counselors, will present an explanation of the *Matrix of Consequences for Bullying* in each classroom. They will include definitions and the differences between teasing, bullying, and harassing. They will discuss how to prevent bullying and provide ways to support each other. All students will learn how to contribute to make our school a safe and inviting environment. We ask that you review the *Matrix* with your child. It can be found on our web page.

If your child is involved in some of the normal adolescent conflict, please be sure to share this information with the classroom teacher, school counselor, or administrator. Our goal is your goal – for the behavior to stop. We will assist you and your child in resolving this issue.

If your child is involved in repetitive and ongoing bullying; bullying that is purposeful, direct, willful, and can harm another child, appropriate action and consequences will follow.

In conclusion, the wish of Toano Middle School is to provide a safe learning environment for all students, to engage each student fully in the learning process, and to enable students to self advocate in a trusting and happy workplace. We ask Parents/Guardians to partner with us in teaching our children respect. Together we can maintain a caring community at Toano Middle School.

Thank you for your continued support!

TMS Staff