



Camden Central High School

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Linda Phelps
Principal

Shawn McDowell
Assistant Principal

Date: August 1, 2012
To: Parents and guardians of students at Camden Central High
From: Mrs. Linda Phelps and Mr. Shawn McDowell
Concerning: Cyber Bullying

Our school will be taking part in a cyber bullying prevention curriculum. You may have heard about cyber bullying over the past year. It has become an important issue for many children and their families. As internet and cell phone use have become an integral part of our daily lives, abuses of these technologies have also grown. While these tools of communication and networking are valuable in so many ways, their misuse is both disruptive and harmful.

This curriculum includes sessions designed to teach students how to recognize any such activity, how it affects members of the school community, what to do if it is happening to them or people they know, and ways to prevent this from continuing. Taking the proactive stance of recognizing and breaking the cycle that often occurs in bullying is the best answer. Schools have been able to reduce this kind of activity through such programs, and it is our goal to do the same.

Students will be engaged in classroom discussions and small group activities or projects designed to offer understanding of how cell phones, text messaging, instant messaging, websites and email can be abused. Through this understanding the students will develop ways to recognize and know what to do about it. Simply walking away or removing yourself when you witness any bullying activities sends two very negative messages. First, the person being bullied becomes isolated, making the situation more dramatic. Second, the one performing the bullying activity develops this mechanism as a way to shield himself/herself from isolation. Breaking this cycle is the part of this curriculum that offers coping mechanisms for everyone and the opportunity to improve the school environment.

Other subjects such as Character Counts education and programs addressing hazing activities will also be a part of these will small group activities. In this fast moving world our students have enough challenges placed upon them without having to worry about abuses in the school environment. The Character Counts program is a valuable asset to teach proper ways to face the temptations of this information based society.

Cyber bullying is a matter that concerns us at school and is also a matter that needs to be discussed at home. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this program.

Sincerely,

Linda Phelps

Shawn McDowell