

SJA Parents,

Having a safe school experience is something that all students should be able to enjoy. Our philosophy states that we are preparing our students to live in the world as responsible citizens and faithful stewards of all creation. As part of a Catholic faith community our students are to model Christian values and to be respectful of self and others.

In keeping with these values, we are ready to kick-off our bully prevention program! After careful research, we have chosen to use one of the best-known bullying prevention programs, the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. The program is for all students (not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others) and has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying. The program also works to make relationships better among students.

The first step in the program is for your child to complete an anonymous questionnaire. Students in grades 3-8 will complete the survey on Nov. 18th in our computer lab. You do have the right to request that your child not participate. Please notify us in writing no later than Tuesday, Nov 17th if your child will not participate. Your child also has the right to request not to participate or to not answer specific questions (except two questions regarding grade and gender). No one, including school staff, will be able to tell how specific students answered the questions.

Parents and guardians play a key role in this program. Your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying happening at school. It will be very important that you take any bullying seriously and tell our school staff. Our school staff members will be trained to deal with bullying situations when we are told about them. Bullying should not be seen as “kids being kids” or something that students just need to deal with. We will also be having parent meetings where you can learn more about the program.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Mrs. Kacey Smith or me.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dunn
Principal