

Withamsville Strives to be “Bully-Free”

What is Bullying?

At Withamsville we believe that a student is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.

How to explain Bullying to your child:

“Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself.

3 major components of bullying:

- It is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions
- Bullying usually involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time
- Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength

NOTE: bullying can take on many forms, such as hitting, verbal taunts, spreading of false rumors, intentional social exclusions, and sending mean messages on a cell phone or over the internet.

Withamsville School-wide Anti-Bullying Rules

- We will not bully others
- We will try to help students that are bullied
- We will try to include students who are left out
- If we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult

How to tell the difference between bullying; horseplay and fighting. The answer is in the facial expressions of the students.

1. In a **bullying** situation, one student is laughing, smiling and seems to be enjoying the interaction (this is the bully). The other student has a very different facial expression he looks sad, upset, worried or even scared (this is the victim).
2. When the interaction is **horseplay**, both students involved are laughing and appear to be having fun. No noticeable difference in the facial expressions of the students involved.
3. When students are engaged in **fighting**, students both appear angry and engaged in the event.

How we respond when we witness a bullying event at Withamsville

“On the spot intervention”

If you suspect your child is being Bullied, please contact your child’s teacher or the WT office.