



Madeira High School

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Madeira High School Bullying Prevention Program

Bullying usually happens in unstructured spaces such as lockers, restrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria and at unstructured times such as class changes and lunch. Students who engage in bully behavior purposely perform this behavior away from adults. The Madeira High School bullying prevention plan is designed to inform students how to solve conflicts, give students avenues to seek help/assistance with problems, and help students change their behavior to impact the school culture in a positive way.

School-Wide Awareness

- Class meetings are held to reinforce to students how they should treat one another in a number of different social settings which include the classroom, school, special events, and social media. We know that some bully situations begin with isolated conflicts and through repetition grow into bully problems that should be addressed. How each person handles his or her conflicts makes a difference in creating and maintaining a positive school culture and eliminating an environment in which bully behavior grows. Students are instructed to bring their conflicts to an adult at school and seek help/guidance to resolve or solve the conflict in a manner that maintains the dignity and value of each person involved. A second key part of this message is students cannot control other people, but each student can control him or herself and the response they give to someone else. So, when students believe they have been bullied, it is their choice and we hope their response to report the incident rather than reacting in a way to escalate the problem.

"A school community where learning is personalized and success is ensured."

Anonymous Reporting

- If students feel they cannot confide in a counselor, administrator, or teacher, they can call the Safe School Line at 1-866-547-8362 or 1-866-listen2me. This line is monitored by the superintendent's office and requires each call to be investigated and a response provided.

Tiered Response

- Counselors and administrators support intervention as the first step to resolving or solving a conflict. If intervention is not successful, administration will employ a "bully flow chart," developed by the district, to determine if the conflict is an incident of bullying. If consequences are administered, counseling by administration and the guidance department still becomes a way to coach students on how to avoid future incidents, which may avoid additional conflicts and consequences.

Special Programming

- Each year our counseling department meets with students in English 10 classrooms delivering three days of researched based programming regarding communication, safe contacts, and an overall message of "talk to a trusted adult" This curriculum is part of the ADAP Program - Adolescent Depression Awareness Program. While the title of the program may not directly imply bullying prevention, the topics and discussion largely relates to social-emotional strength, self-esteem, and handling social situations which all relate to bullying.
- Throughout the year the school hosts a number of special events and speakers that fosters a positive school culture and defines acceptance and respect for others. Various student clubs host week-long awareness campaigns complete with special assemblies, guest speakers, school activities, social media challenges, and more. Examples include GLSEN speaker, Ally week, and Day of Service. During our Day of Service we hosted a guest speaker from Love Speak who spoke to the school about giving back, building up one another, and overcoming adversity.

Individual Assistance

- Our guidance department is actively engaged in individual student meetings addressing self-esteem, positive thinking, and conflict resolution. Each counselor meets with all their assigned students annually.

Positive School Culture - Measured by the M: Madeira Strong

- In the 2013-2014 school year Madeira High School implemented the “Measured by the M” program. A positive school culture program established to address many of the social-emotional challenges and difficulties faced by high school students. The program was created by, in conjunction with, student leadership and focuses on positive recognition for all students based upon being Different, Noticeable, and Appealing! Working with student government leaders a number of years, the program **changed to being Madeira Strong in 2015-16!** The program established the a social media hashtag #madeirastrong to further embed the program into the school culture. Students now focus on it symbolically as #Madeira Strong. It is used on Twitter and other social media sites when publishing events or student accomplishments.

Madeira Strong is built on the basic concepts of being Different, Noticeable, and Appealing (all in a good way). We like to say, it is our D.N.A. The acronym works well for remembering the founding concepts. Madeira Strong is not just about doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do, but also about doing the right thing when nobody's looking. Each class reflects on leaving a legacy and challenging the next group to be collectively better than than they were. It creates a continuous improvement culture then maintains a positive school climate.

Each year the program kicks off with a special school-wide assembly where we recognize 'A' honor roll students , and introduce the leadership qualities selected by student leadership to be the focus for the year. Our student leadership selects students to speak at the assembly to the school that exemplify those leadership characteristics. All the speeches are spectacular and motivating.

A large part of the Madeira Strong program is the positive referrals system. The referrals are postcards sent home to families recognizing students that were different, noticeable, and appealing. Students are recognized by staff, who then fill out the postcard referral and mail it home. The positive referrals are tracked in the office as well so data can be shared with staff and the community. Students that are recognized more than once not only get another postcard mailed home, but also receive a Madeira Strong reward and/or gift card.

We have noticed a change in the culture within the building, around the community, and on the sports fields as a result of the Madeira Strong program. We plan to continue this positive behavior support in the coming years!