

### Lunch With The School Counselor

To help promote friendships and social skill development, students, individually or in groups, may be invited to have one or more lunches with the school counselor. Discussions, games and problem solving strategies are used to work through school or peer relationship difficulties. If the problem is serious, the school counselor will call parents to discuss the concerns.

Any parents who object to their child's participation in peer mediation or lunchtime meetings with the counselor should contact the school counselor by phone (x302) or in writing.

## **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING**

The Board of Education expects pupils to treat each other with civility and respect, and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Like other disruptive or violent behaviors, this conduct interferes with a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment. The Board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any pupil on school property or any school-sponsored function.

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus and that:

- A. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, what will have the effect of harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
- B. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Any school employee, pupil or volunteer who has witnessed, or has reliable information that a pupil has been subject to harassment, intimidation or bullying must report the incident to the appropriate school official designated by the administration. The Board shall not tolerate an act of reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying (Board Policy #5131).

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & DISCIPLINE**

An integral part of every student's education, both at school and at home, is learning to be a responsible individual and a good citizen. The student management system presented on the following page is one that presents specifically stated and well-explained rules for student behavior. Consequences for violating the rules are also provided to students so that they will know their status in the discipline process at all times. This system has been designed to be fair and to hold students strictly accountable for their actions. This system applies not only during "regular" school hours, but for all school related events and activities, such as field trips, dances, sports and club events.

Our system of classroom discipline aims to strengthen the educational program. The main premises of these procedures are that students have a right to learn in a safe, orderly environment and that teachers have the right to teach without disruptions. Any conduct that significantly interrupts the teaching-learning process will not be tolerated. Our expectations for classroom success are that students will:

1. come to class appropriately dressed.
2. be seated and quiet when the bell rings or lessons begin.
3. come to class prepared, i.e., pencils, books, homework.
4. take an active part in the lesson.
5. refrain from disrupting the class.

Discipline in the classroom is the responsibility of the teacher; however, after various disciplinary attempts have been tried, the student shall be referred to the principal's office. Infractions may result in students being given points according to the guidelines that follow. Administrative discipline procedures also include recess or after school detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions. All disciplinary action taken by the school is intended to benefit the student through improvement of behavior and/or attitude. It also benefits all other students in that their education is not affected or interrupted.

Consistency of action is of utmost importance for all concerned. Parental support of school discipline actions is also a vital part of the program as it aids in reinforcing consequences and improving their student's behavior. If it is necessary to keep your child after school for disciplinary reasons, notification will be sent home explaining the reasons for detaining your child, the date(s) he or she is to stay and the time he/she is to be picked up. This form is to be signed and returned to school the next day. A telephone call will be made to remind parents of their student's detention obligations.