

## **BUDDY BENCH**

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. If you are sitting on the bench you are looking for a friend. When someone asks you to play, join them and always remember to glance over at the Buddy Bench to invite new friends to join in on the fun.

Four reasons a person may be sitting on the Buddy Bench.

- The student is new to the school.
- The student wants to make new friends.
- The student's friend or friends are not at school that day.
- The student wants to play something different than what his or her friends are playing.

If you are not sitting on the bench and see someone sitting on the bench, ask your classmate on the Buddy Bench to play; and make a new friend today! Keep growing your circle of friends until everyone has someone to play with.

A big thank you to Mrs. Haynes, student council, parents, and community members who saved plastic caps and raised funds to purchase our Buddy Bench.

## **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROHIBITED**

### **Bullying/General Harassment**

No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully another student based upon a student's age, sex, color, actual or perceived race, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, marital status, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristics.

The District will not tolerate harassing or intimidating conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically (cyber-bullying), directed on more than one occurrence toward a student or group of students, by a student or group of students, that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
- Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
- Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

### **Bullying is Prohibited**

- During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
- While in school, on school property, on school buses, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
- Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment (cyber-bullying).

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to, name-calling, using derogatory slurs, harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above or retaliation for asserting an act of bullying.

Complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying are handled according to the process listed in the district's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome act or comment sexual in nature that is considered offensive, whether intended or not, which denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by anyone including students, imposed on the basis of sex that has the purpose or effect of: (a) substantially interfering with the student's educational environment; (b) creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; (c) depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; (d) making submission to or rejection of unwelcome conduct the basis of academic decision affecting a student.

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, unwelcome touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students, who believe they are victims of sexual harassment or have witnessed sexual harassment, are encouraged to discuss the matter with the student Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Principal, or a Complaint Manager. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same gender. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. An allegation that one student was sexually harassed by another student or by an adult shall be referred to the Principal for appropriate action.

Any student of the district who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

The District contracts Johannes Bus Service, Inc. for all transportation services. When your child does not need to be picked up in the morning or dropped off in the afternoon, please call 888-712-3506. You may leave a message on the dispatch answering machine if you call in the evening. The phone will be answered by Dawn, Dispatcher or Christina, Branch Manager, early in the morning and during the day. Bus transportation is provided to and from school for all students living 1.5 miles or more from the school. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Principal.

If your child occasionally must ride a different bus a hand-written note from home must be sent to school. Due to bus seating limits, the request may be denied. It is best to call the office in advance to discuss the situation.

Student discipline for bus infractions will continue to be the responsibility of Lostant School District. Two or three cameras are located on every bus. Cameras will have audio and visual taping capabilities. Behavior infractions will be viewed by Johannes Bus Service, Inc. personnel as well as Mrs. Klobucher. After viewing student behavior bus issues, Lostant School will manage the discipline. While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by Mrs. Klobucher, Principal. Parents will be informed of inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year. In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are expected to observe the following rules:

- Go to your assigned seat and sit in it immediately upon entering the bus. Do not stand in the entrance or in the aisle.
- Assigned seating will be implemented if needed.
- Do not move from one seat to another while on the bus.
- Keep all parts of the body and all objects inside the bus.
- Loud conversation, singing, boisterous conduct, or profanity is not allowed.