

## Bullying Prevention at Cherry Park

We have high expectations for our students at Cherry Park. This includes academics and classroom behavior, of course, but it also means we expect our students to be kind to one another and treat everyone with respect.

Cherry Park students are expected to try to solve their own small conflicts, and ask for help when they need an adult to intervene. Our school-wide expectations are to be safe, be respectful, and be responsible, and we explicitly teach our students this through classroom lessons from the teachers and the school counselor.

**All students are taught our problem-solving strategy, which is called “Stop, Walk, Talk.”**

Our protocol is as follows:

When a student has a “kid-sized” problem (a small conflict with a peer), we teach our students to do the following:

1. Tell the person to **STOP**, using a firm voice and a “stop” gesture that all students are aware of and know how to use.
2. If the person does stop, the problem is solved. If the person does not stop, the student is taught to **WALK AWAY**.
3. If the person does not follow, the conflict is over. If the person continues to bother the first student, the next step is **TALK TO AN ADULT**. The adult will intervene and help solve the problem.

*If a student has a big problem (for example: where someone is hurt or possibly going to get hurt) then they bypass the first two steps and go right to an adult for help.*

“Stop, Walk, Talk” posters are hung in classrooms and throughout the school in hallways and offices.

In addition to explicitly teaching the above protocol to all our students, our primary students receive classroom lessons in problem-solving strategies (please see [Kelso’s Choices](#) for more information about problem solving strategies for young children) and friendship social skills. Older students receive lessons in mindfulness, communication skills, stopping the spread of rumors, self-esteem, being open-minded to different cultures and good decision-making.

“Bullying” is defined as a situation where one person or a group of people continuously tries to hurt another person’s feelings on purpose. Bullying is a conscious, repeated action. We take bullying very seriously and try to ensure that no student is a victim of bullying. Our older students learn more in-depth information about bullying, including the different roles people in a bullying situation take.

These roles are the bully, the victim, the bystander (someone who sees the bullying happen but does nothing), and the upstander (the person who sees the bullying happen and takes action to stop it). Our goal for all our students is if a bullying situation were to occur, all of our Cherry Park students would be upstanders. We care about all our students and we pride our school on being a safe, nurturing and supportive community for all our students, staff and community members.