

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Throughout the month of October, we have been teaching and reminding students that harassment and bullying is not an acceptable behavior at any time. To teach/remind students, the following points are taught and regularly reinforced:

- Types of bullying
- Different roles associated with bullying
- Effects of bullying
- Ways to deal with bullying

As a district we will not tolerate any action or activity that inflicts physical harm or mental anxiety, which demeans, degrades or disgraces a person. We want to remind students that harassment, hazing and/or bullying is unwelcome conduct by a person that is persistent or pervasive so that it affects another person's ability to participate in or benefit from school programs.

The official definition as outlined by Iowa Code and addressed in Appendix C of our Junior High Parent/Student Handbook (<http://www.pleasval.k12.ia.us/juniorhigh/jhstudenthandbook.pdf>) reads as follows:

“Harassment” and “bullying” shall be construed to mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance.
4. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

“Trait or characteristic of the student” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

We encourage you to read and discuss the Harassment, Hazing, Bullying and Safe School Climate sections of the Parent/Student Handbook with your child. If you have questions, you witness this behavior or are a victim of this behavior, please report the situation to Trampus Budde, Principal - Junior High, or Kevin Pennekamp, Dean of Students - Junior High. Mr. Budde and Mr. Pennekamp can be reached at 332-0200 or via email at buddetrampus@pleasval.k12.ia.us or pennekampkevin@pleasval.k12.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Trampus Budde, Ed. D.
Principal - Pleasant Valley Junior High School
3501 Wisconsin Street
LeClaire, IA 52753
Ph 563-332-0200