



YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY

Anti-Bullying Pledge

Youth Advancement Academy is committed to creating the best environment for personal growth and development.

The environment that best produces this is one that would be described as caring, loving, nurturing, safe, and expectant. One of the issues that we take very seriously is our student's attitude and treatment of each other.

Bullying is an attitude and behavior that directly goes against the policies of the school and all communities.

Therefore, we believe that it has no place at Youth Advancement Academy.

Because of this strong belief we are calling on and expecting each student's and parent's support and commitment to this cause. We are requiring each student to follow this pledge to show their commitment.

We agree to join together to stamp out bullying at our school.

We believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally, and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of color, race, gender, popularity, sexual orientation, athletic ability, intelligence, religion and nationality.

Bullying can be pushing, shoving, chasing, hitting, unwanted touching and spitting, as well as name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, excluding someone either verbal or online. Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable as "kids being kids," "just teasing" or any other rationalization. The victim is never responsible for being a target of bullying. If you see bullying, or if you are a victim of bullying, please contact the Center Director immediately.

By attending Youth Advancement Academy, I agree to:

- 1. Value student differences and treat others with respect.*
- 2. Not become involved in bullying incidents or be a bully.*
- 3. Be aware of the school's policies and support system with regard to bullying.*
- 4. Acknowledge that whether I am being a bully or see someone being bullied, if I don't report or stop the bullying, I am guilty of supporting bullying.*
- 5. Be alert in places around the school where there is less adult supervision such as bathrooms, walking from class to class, and halls.*
- 6. Work with other students and faculty, to help the school deal with bullying effectively.*
- 7. Provide a good role model for younger students and support them if bullying occurs.*
- 8. Take responsibility for my behaviors.*

Youth Advancement Academy has a ZERO tolerance policy.

Anti-Bullying Pledge

Bullying

Any unwanted, repeated, written, verbal or physical behavior is Bullying. This includes threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment. Any threat, insulting or dehumanizing gesture that causes discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interferes with the individual's school or work performance or participation. May involve:

Teasing – to laugh at and criticize someone in a way that is either friendly and playful or cruel and unkind; to annoy or bother

Threats – a statement saying you will be harmed if you do not do what someone wants you to do; someone or something that could cause trouble, harm, etc.; the possibility that something bad or harmful can happen.

Intimidation – the act of making someone timid or fearful

Stalking – to follow, watch and bother someone in a manner that is frightening, dangerous, etc.

Physical violence – physical violence is any deliberate action that directly impairs the victim's physical integrity. Physical integrity is the right to live without being physically harmed or harassed by others. Includes assault, hitting/kicking/pinching, spitting, tripping/pushing, taking or breaking someone's things, making mean or rude hand gestures, immobilizing someone (impairing them from moving or leaving).

Assault – assault is when an individual uses or tries to use force against another person without their consent, by: physical attack, the use of a weapon, the threat of either. Trying or threatening to assault someone is also an infraction if: the aggressor is capable of carrying out the assault, or it seems like the aggressor is capable of carrying out the assault.

Theft – the act of stealing, taking and removing of personal property with intent to deprive the rightful owner of it; an unlawful taking (as by embezzlement or burglary) of property

Harassment – any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology (Example, videotaping), written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or employee. Includes racial, religious and sexual remarks.

Sexual Harassment – unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Examples: sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations and flirtations, unwanted physical/sexual conduct, inappropriate touching or gestures.

Destruction of Property – A person who willfully destroys or injures the personal property of another person

Public humiliation – to make someone feel ashamed or foolish through written, verbal, physical conduct and use of internet (cyber bullying)

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat and websites.

Examples of cyber bullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

To like, share, post, create, send, inbox, and comment on images, videos, websites, pictures, profiles, and networking sites that dehumanize, tease, threaten or intimidate another student or employee are all forms of bullying.

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Like – to enjoy something; get pleasure from; to regard in a favorable way

Share – to have or use with other; to let someone else have or use a part of

Post – to publish, announce, or advertise

Create – to make or produce something, to cause to exist

Send – to cause (a letter, email) to or be carried from one place or person to another, to give a message to someone.

Comment – a spoken or written statement that expresses an opinion about someone or something; a written statement that discusses the meaning of something or an event.

Bullying can be Direct or Indirect

The roles students play in bullying are not limited to those who bully others and those who are bullied.

Direct roles include:

Students who bully: these students engage in bullying behavior towards their peers.

Kids who are bullied: these students are the targets of bullying behavior.

Even if a student is not directly involved in bullying, they may be contributing to the behavior. Witnessing the behavior may also affect the student and the behavior of the student who is bullying.

Indirect Roles:

Students who Assist: these students may not start the bullying or lead in the bullying behavior, but serve as an “assistant” to students who are bullying. These students may encourage the bullying behavior and occasionally join in.

Students who reinforce: these students are not directly involved in the bullying behavior but they give the bullying an audience. They will often laugh or provide support for the children who are engaging in bullying. This may encourage the bullying to continue.

Outsiders: these children remain separate from the bullying situation. They neither reinforce the bullying behavior nor defend the child being bullied. Some may watch what is going on but do not provide feedback about the situation to show they are on anyone’s side. Even so, providing an audience may encourage the bullying behavior. **Watching is bullying.**

Outside of school hours, bullying is punishable by the school if it unreasonably interferes with the individual’s school or work performance or participation. This consists of and is not limited to bullying or cyber bullying that results in:

Student’s unwillingness to attend school due to concern of safety or further confrontations while traveling to and from school and while in attendance.

Third party bullying is where the bullying is carried out by an individual or group of individuals or a third party (person or people who are not students or employees of the school. Includes adults, family members, friends, etc.) affiliated with the student who is involved in bullying.

Whether direct or indirect, during and after school hours bullying is against the law and it is Youth Advancement Academy’s duty to protect the students and staff.

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