

JPJMS Bullying Policy:

The faculty, staff, and administration at Joel P. Jensen Middle School do not tolerate any type of bullying. We must all do our part to maintain a safe and welcoming educational environment. Although each instance of bullying will be different, bullying generally includes one or more of these characteristics:

- Power over you with the intent to hurt
- Causing harm, fear, abuse, or property damage
- Can be verbal, written, physical, or electronic

When a potential bullying issue happens in or effects school, the administration asks that information be given to them with details about what has happened. Names will remain anonymous of any individuals that bring information to the administration. The administration will bring in witnesses, as well as those involved to write up statements about the situation. The administration will then determine whether it did occur, if it is indeed an instance of bullying, and what discipline will take place. Consistency in how the administration gives out discipline is important. A range of consequences may take place, but if this is the first episode of bullying, the most important part of the discipline is that the bully receives education about what bullying is, why the episode falls into that category of bullying, etc. Initial consequences for first offenders will include everything from in-school suspensions, to home suspensions. Parents/guardians will be contacted, both of the victim and of the bully. Due to federal privacy law (FERPA), the school administration may *never* tell the victim or victim's parents/guardians details regarding the discipline of the bully. If bullying continues, discipline increases in intensity, which may include even taking the bully to a district-level hearing to determine if he/she should have a change in school placement. Counseling services are always provided for both victims and students who have bullied others. Our goal is to identify and fix any and all bullying issues in our school so that Joel P. Jensen is a safe place to learn.

Students play the most important role in our attempt to have a safe school. We recommend that all students and parents report directly to the administration or trusted adult in the school or if they have smart phones, use the SafeUT app to report any bullying. This is an anonymous and free resource.

Joel P. Jensen also utilizes student leadership groups, such as Team PROWL, and provides assemblies and other learning opportunities to support and educate all students in our anti-bullying movement.