

November 2012

Parents,

Following is a review of the school's position regarding relationships at Aquin Catholic Schools.

From The Aquin Mission Statement:

The Aquin Catholic School System is a faith community founded in Christ where all individuals are given the opportunity to develop both their moral character and learning potential.

Goal 1.

To establish a faith community that clearly endorses and promotes Catholic morals, theology, and doctrines.

A. **To witness Christ in our living and learning.**

Goal 2.

To instill a sense of self-worth and community.

A. To positively influence the physical, moral, social, emotional, and cultural development in all members of the faith community.

B. To motivate positively - always recognizing the good in each person.

From the Student Handbook:

- The disciplinary code at Aquin is meant to instill within the student a sense of ... morally correct conduct. (p. 26)
- Students who fight ...will be assigned disciplinary consequences.
- ...All students and school personnel have a right to be treated with respect and dignity.
- ...Any type of harassment is directly contrary to the mission of Aquin... (p. 27)
- ...have zero tolerance for harassment and to report it immediately, whether they are targets or witnesses.
- Internet...considered to be in the public domain. (p. 22)
- If misuse of electronic media has a negative impact on...students and/or other school personnel, the result will be disciplinary consequences... (p.23)

Definitions

Bullying

- Usually a group of students taking advantage of or isolating one student in particular and gaining the loyalty of bystanders who want to avoid becoming the next victim. These bullies taunt and tease their target before physically bullying the target.
- There is an inherent power differential in bullying - older students, stronger students picking on a younger or weaker student.

Inappropriate Behavior

- Students who engage in hurtful, unkind actions and/or words with each other.

School programs/education/support

- Daily religion classes
- Student retreats
- Student mentor program
 1. Match 11th and 12th grade students with junior high students
 2. Junior high class presentations by high school students
- Junior high class presentations by administration
 1. Mrs. Runte met with 7th grade and 8th grade (early October, 2011)
 - Acceptance of each and every student
 - Use power of peer pressure for good
 - “Responsible telling”
 - Don’t allow misbehavior (words/actions/teasing)
- October 19, 2011: Miss Illinois presentation
- Staff in-service
 1. October 11, 2011: diocesan high school personnel (included Aquin junior high personnel) met in Aurora for a presentation about misuse of social media (Illinois Attorney General’s office)
 2. Staff meetings: discuss ways to help students live the Aquin mission (treating all with respect)
- Specific issues
 1. Reconciliation is always the goal
 2. Peer mediation
 3. Help students accept responsibility for choices
 4. Help students find solutions to problems
 5. Staffing (student, parent, and school personnel)
 6. Disciplinary consequences
 - Suspension
 - Behavior contract
- Parents
 1. Inform school of issues
 - School maintains confidentiality
 2. Work in partnership with school to resolve issues
 - School maintains confidentiality
 3. Work in partnership with other parents