

Springport Middle School is intentional about preventing and acting to remove aggressive behavior and bullying.

There are differences between normal peer conflict and actual bullying as listed in the table below. (Bully-proofing Your School, 2012).

TABLE 1 Recognizing the Difference	
Normal Peer Conflict	Bullying
Equal power or friends	Imbalance of power; not friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Accidental	Purposeful
Not serious	Serious with threat of physical or emotional harm
Equal emotional reaction	Strong emotional reaction from victim and little or no emotional reaction from bully
Not seeking power or attention	Seeking power, control, or material things
Not trying to get something	Attempt to gain material things or power
Remorse—will take responsibility	No remorse—blames victim
Effort to solve the problem	No effort to solve problem

The following [guidelines](#) are used to prevent bullying from occurring.

Prevention of aggressive behavior is better than reacting to it after it has occurred. We use the following strategies to increase student [social emotional learning](#) to prevent these behavior from occurring.

- Every student has a trusted adult. If they don't identify their own, we assign someone to mentor them.
- [Character Strong](#) Lessons two times each week during PRIDE Time for all students to develop well-being and connectedness.
- Anthoni Ianni or similar Anti-Bullying assembly (not every year)
- Challenge Day for all 7th graders (annually)
- Be Kind themed posters in all classrooms and common areas.
- Article about Bullying versus Peer Conflict to all students and parents at conferences
- Videos and follow up questions to use with Tier One or Tier Two (as needed)
 - <https://www.jostensrenaissance.com/ep3-7-bullying/>
 - <https://www.jostensrenaissance.com/wp-content/uploads/theharborpdfs/Bullying-Digital1.pdf>
- Suite 360 lessons used with Tier Two students for reteaching (as needed)

Response:

- 15 second intervention is used when an adult witnesses aggressive or mean behavior (address verbally, I wouldn't let someone do that to you, I can't let you do that to him/her)
- Bullying/Aggressive Behavior Report Form is completed but victim or witness and incident is investigated. Form is located in the office and turned in to secretary.
- Anonymous reporting form is available in all PRIDE Google Classrooms and QR codes around the school.
- Aggressive Behavior Rubric in Parent Student handbook is used as a guide for consequences
 - Restorative practices are used to repair relationships when possible and potentially reduce consequences.