

BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

St. Wendelin Junior and Senior High School is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment for all its students. SWHS encourages the promotion of positive moral relationships and strong Christian values with each of member of our student body.

Hazing or bullying is defined by our handbook as:

“A student who engages in conduct detrimental to the reputation of the school both inside and outside of school, by taking part in actions that may be seen as potentially harmful or demeaning in any way. A student who fails to stop or report such an incident may be held equally responsible.”

Hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student or staff member, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. St. Wendelin will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities sponsored by the school, including activities on school property or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school sponsored activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school’s control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

Hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means the use of electronic devices (i.e., internet, email, cell phone, or wireless hand held device) that staff/student(s) or group of staff/students exhibits toward another particular staff/student(s) that both causes or could potentially cause mental or physical harm to the staff/student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for any other staff/student(s).

Filing Reports regarding suspected hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying

Staff/students and/or parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such informal complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected hazing, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student/staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who received an informal complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the Principal for review, investigation, and appropriate disciplinary action.

A student/staff member may make an informal complaint requesting anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall then be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint.

Any complaints about hazing, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The principal or appropriate administrator will prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such a report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of hazing, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying were verified or are believed to be true. When prohibited acts are verified or believed to be true, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. If the investigation finds an instance of hazing, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate disciplinary action.

Retaliation against any person who reports

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of hazing, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of School Policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as hazing, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying. Making intentionally false reports about aggressive behavior for any purpose is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated.