



Dignity for All Students Act

How does the Mineola K-12 curriculum support the district's DASA Policy?

December 19, 2013



The Dignity Act

The Dignity for All Students Act New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.



Mineola's DASA Policy

The Board is committed to providing an educational and work environment that promotes respect, dignity and equality for all. The Board recognizes that harassment and bullying are detrimental to student learning and achievement. This behavior both interferes with the mission of the District to educate its students and disrupts the operation of District Schools.

The Board believes that the most positive school climate is one which is culturally sensitive and which models positive behavioral interactions that clearly show there is no tolerance for antisocial behaviors such as bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Our schools' activities and curriculum support this policy.




Hampton Street and Meadow Drive Kindergarten – Grade 2

THE CURRICULUM

- Making Meaning Read Aloud program combines reading comprehension research with support for students' social and ethical development.
- The ELA and Social Studies Curricula teach students to be considerate of others and understand the impact that each student's actions have on others.

KINDERGARTEN

- ***The Juice Box Bully: Empowering Kids to Stand Up For Others*** by Bob Sornson
- ***Halle and Tiger with Their Bucket Filling Family*** by Peggy Johncox
- ***Respect and Take Care of Things*** by Cheri J. Meiners
- ***Will you Fill My Bucket*** by Carol McCloud



Hampton Street and Meadow Drive Sample Lessons/Books

Grade 1

- *Bullies Never Win* by Margery Cuyler
- *Mind Your Manners in School* by Arianna Candell/Rosa Curto
- *Have You Filled A Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud
- *How Full is Your bucket?* by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer

Grade 2

- *Sheila The Brave* by Kevin Henkes
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *Jamaica Tag Along* by Juanita Havill
- *Duck For President* by Doreen Cronin
- *Being a good Citizen* by Mary Small



Hampton Street and Meadow Drive Activities in K-2

Through the year students participate in activities that encourage self esteem, confidence and a culture of respect in each classroom and in each school. In September the K-2 schools begin with the following activities which set the tone for the school year.

- **Hampton Cares** – The Power of One Antibullying Assembly and Zap T Shirts standing up against bullying.
- **Meadow Drive** – Ms. Castillo, the social worker, visits each classroom and makes a presentation about bullying and showing respect for one another.



Hampton Street and Meadow Drive Helping Others

Hampton Street and Meadow Drive students demonstrate kindness and caring by helping others.

- Thanksgiving baskets for needy families
- Giving Tree to buy presents for needy family for the holidays
- Pennies for Patients
- Make a Wish Foundation – Letters to Santa
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Hoops for Heart



Jackson Avenue School

The Curriculum

The NYS modules and the Making Meaning Curriculum include text selections that encourage respect and dignity for all. For example,

- In Grade 3 – the students read *Julius, The Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes which encourages students to take responsibility for their learning and behavior.
- In Grade 4 – the students read *The Great Law of Peace* by Cynthia O'Brien and collaborate to write a class constitution that is designed to help them resolve conflicts and work together to learn.



Jackson Avenue School

In September the principal kicks off the year with an Assembly entitled:

Stand Tall and Make Good Choices

During the first few weeks of school all teachers spend time creating a culture for learning and setting expectations for respect for each students' race, ethnicity, physical appearance and dignity in each classroom and when using technology.



On-going activities at Jackson

- Follow-up student assemblies throughout the year that reinforce positive behavior in school
- Collection for UNICEF
- Thanksgiving food collection
- All PE classes focus on the “virtues of character” which include respect, responsibility, choices, caring and honesty
- Random Acts of Kindness Week
- “Book Fairies” – donating used books for needy families



Mineola Middle School

Curriculum

The NYS modules and Mineola Units of Study include text selections that focus on respect and dignity for all.

Grade 5 – Text & Author	Focus
<i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan	Equity and Building Empathy
<i>The Freedom Train</i> by Dorothy Sterling	Courage
<i>No More Dead Dogs</i> by Gordon Korman	Avoiding Stereotypes
Grade 6 – Text & Author	Focus
<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> by Kate DeCamillo	Compassion/Consideration
<i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick	Differences, Loyalty, Empathy
<i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Rick Riordan	Heroism



Middle School Texts

Grade 7 – Text & Author	Focus
<i>The Slave Dancer</i> by Paula Fox	Compassion
<i>13 Stories that Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen</i> by James Howe	Combating Bullying and Accepting Differences
<i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i> by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier	Patriotism

Additional literature circle novels: *The Misfits* by James Howe, *Slob* by Ellen Potter, *Inventing Elliot* by Graham Gardner, *The Revealers* by Doug Wilhelm, *Dog Sense* by John Bradshaw, *The Revolutionary War* by Elizabeth Raum



Mineola Middle School

The year begins with an address from Mr. Gaven regarding the academic, social and behavioral expectations at the Middle School. The DASA law is presented and explained.

The school support team, Ms. Beck, Social Worker, Ms. Azevedo, Psychologist, Ms. Kehoe and Ms. Honig, School Counselors, speak to the students about their roles in supporting students with any and all situations.



ROCK at the Middle School

- The ROCK program (Recognizing Outstanding Character in Kids) incorporates formal and informal educational opportunities.
- Focus in Grade 5 is on transitioning positively to MS and understanding some of the social and emotional struggles that come with adolescence
- Focus in Grade 6 focuses on social/peer interactions and decision making.
- In Grade 7 students the focus is on individuality and how each student fits into the larger community.



Middle School On-going Activities

- ROCK Day – Fall assembly followed up with classroom activities that encourage good choices, integrity, team work and cooperation.
- DASA Assembly – A guest speaker addresses the students on their role in treating others with respect and dignity.
- ROCK Out Day and week activities/lessons focus on trust building activities, interpersonal communication and pride and empowerment. Students make blankets for patients at Winthrop Hospital, donate artwork to beautify school grounds and use their iPads to create character education videos and messages to be shared by the student body. In the Spring, students participate in additional service learning experiences.
- ROCK Cards (designed by students, for students) are earned when students are “caught” making good choices and helping others. For example, assisting a teacher with a task, returning lost items, standing up for a friend or demonstrating kindness to others. All faculty and staff, including clerical, custodians and cafeteria aides can distribute ROCK cards.
- Throughout the year the morning announcements include inspirational readings encouraging students to learn more about themselves and how to treat others. Schools clubs and activities include the PEACE club, Project Adventure, the PAW club and the Community Action Club.



Mineola High School

The High School curriculum includes the courses and texts that teaches students about discrimination, persecution, dignity and equality and encourage students to act responsibly and make good decisions as they become young adults.

- Increase the Peace, Psychology 1 and 2, Human Rights, Contemporary Issues, Health, Family Living and the Senior Project
- Grade 8 - ***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton
- Grade 9 – ***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck; ***Lord of the Flies*** by William Golding
- Grade 10 – ***The Chocolate War*** by Robert Cormier; ***Night*** by Elie Wiesel, ***The Cage*** by Ruth Minsky Sender
- Grade 11 – ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*** by Stephen Chbosky; ***Breathing Underwater*** by Alex Finn



Mineola High School Activities

- Throughout the school year the staff receives training on how to create a non-threatening, safe and supportive environment. Students take an anti-bullying pledge and participate in a number of school wide awareness program.
- Bully Prevention Program
- Increase the Peace Club
- Peer Mentoring



Mineola High School

- The spirit of the season is evident at the High School in the many service activities our students are involved in, including visiting the Sun Harbor Nursing Home, preparing food at the Ronald McDonald House, serving needy families at the INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network), volunteering at Gingerbread University, singing at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Winthrop, and collecting toys for needy children. These are some examples of the generous acts of kindness that our students do that touch people's lives and help make a difference in our community.