

Cielo Roblero

March 3, 2011

Dear Principal O'Rear:

I am writing to you because there is a big problem at Haleyville Middle School. Bullying, it happens every day. Just by standing in the lunch line you can hear someone getting picked on. It is usually about something ignorant too. Something needs to be done to stop it. Now, I suggest that you enforce a zero tolerance policy for bullying for three reasons: there's been an epidemic of children committing suicide over being bullied, for the safety of all the students at our school, and to stop people from being verbally abused daily.

I understand that you or your children may not have been bullied in school before, but have you watched the news lately? Just last year I saw about three or four faces flash across my television screen, of children my age, who have killed themselves. Statistics say that 8% of children who are bullied end up committing suicide. Around 200 people kill themselves each year, around the world, because of bullying. Did you know that bullycide (committing suicide over being bullied) is the leading cause of death in children 14 and under? Why do they kill themselves? Ignorant students who believe that if you are not exactly like them there is something wrong with you, that's why. After a while, when nothing is being done to stop the bullying, they cannot take it anymore. They feel that killing themselves is the only way out. This should not happen at our school, or any school. By enforcing this one policy you could save an innocent child's life. Isn't it worth it?

Also by enforcing this policy you could save hundreds of student's lives. Now I know our school has a great intruder alert plan, but what if the intruder were a normal student? No one

would suspect anything until it was too late. I've heard stories on the news where a student who has been bullied their entire school life snaps, somehow gets a gun, and goes into his/her school opening fire on everyone. It didn't matter if a person had never done a single thing to them. All the person behind the gun is probably thinking is "revenge." In a study done for "Interim Report on the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools," Student shooters reacted violently to being bullied by fellow students. With this policy you could prevent that.

This policy could also stop people from being verbally abused. Some kids go to school and all they have to look forward to is pain. I have a friend in the seventh grade,

, who feels this way. No one ever talks to him unless they are making fun of him in one form or another. I see how it hurts him. I see the agony each cruel word causes him. I have taken up for him so many times, but no matter what I do or say they continue to bully him. I hear him being called a "gay fag" daily. No one else stands up for him, they just laugh along with everyone else. It is so wrong and cruel. I may not get picked on, but I feel the pain he feels to because I care. Don't you care?

Please consider everything I have said in this letter. It would help a lot more people that you think. I would like to also suggest that you create more bully free programs. You could save kids from killing themselves, killing others, and save them from a whole lot of pain that is wrongly deserved. Please stop the bullying. Stop it now.

Sincerely,

Cielo Roblero