

October Newsletter

LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF SACRAMENTO

BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

Dear LAS Families,

October is **Bullying Prevention Month** and for bullying prevention to work, everyone at school needs to be involved. Our staff has been trained on how to recognize and respond to bullying as well as how to use strategies that support a positive school and classroom climate.

To further help our school be a safe and respectful place, we are going to use the [Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit](#). In the lessons, students will learn how to:

- Recognize when bullying is happening
- Report bullying to a caring adult
- Refuse to let bullying happen to themselves or others
- Be a bystander who stands up and is part of the solution to bullying

Our students will also be learning how to distinguish between behaviors that are mean versus rude versus bullying. These are the definitions students will learn:

Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else

Rudeness might look like burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, or bragging about achieving the highest grade. On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone. These behaviors are also infrequent.

Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).

The main distinction between "rude" and "mean" behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Kids are mean to each other when they criticize clothing, appearance, intelligence, coolness or just about anything else they can find to denigrate. Very often, mean behavior in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down. Commonly, meanness in kids sounds an awful lot like:

- "Are you seriously wearing that sweater again? Didn't you just wear it, like, last week? Get a life."
- "I hate you!"

Make no mistake; mean behaviors can wound deeply and adults can make a huge difference in the lives of young people when they hold kids accountable for being mean. Yet, meanness is different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.

Bullying = Persistent, unwanted aggressive behavior that is intentionally hurtful towards another person and often involves an observed or perceived power imbalance.

Further, bullying is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture directed at an individual that:

- Emotionally or physically harms a student or damages the student's property
- Causes a student to be in reasonable fear that he or she will be harmed
- Creates a hostile environment for the student at the school
- Infringes on the rights of a student at the school
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the daily classroom instruction or school environment

As our esteemed families we need your help, too! Get involved in making our school a safe and respectful place by letting us know if you hear about bullying at our school. Make sure your child knows to tell you or someone at school if he or she is being bullied. And give your child the clear message that it is never okay to bully others. We are asking students, staff, and families to wear orange on October 20th to show solidarity and stand up against bullying!

Thank you for helping us make our school a safe, respectful place where everyone can learn.

Remember to wear ORANGE on OCTOBER 20TH!

NO SCHOOL: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

We will have a staff work day. Classes will not be in session.

SPIRIT DAY: OCTOBER 28TH

Character Day or Dia de muertos theme. Students can dress up/participate in either theme.

NEW: INFINITE CAMPUS

Something NEW!! This school year we have transitioned from ILLUMINATE to a new student information system (SIS), INFINITE CAMPUS. Join us in learning about and welcoming our new SIS by:

- **Activating your PARENT PORTAL:** You should have recently received an invitation via email to activate your Parent Portal account. Once your account is activated, you will have real-time access to student assignment information, attendance, schedules, and more. If you did not receive an email, please contact the LAS office. Note: Middle school students have access to view their own academic progress account as well. If you have a student in Grades 6-8, you may start a practice of having a conversation about how your child can keep track of their own progress and follow up with their teacher(s).
- **Checking out the new PROGRESS REPORT and REPORT CARD templates:** With our new SIS, our progress reports and report cards will look different. However, the information on them about your child's academic progress remains the same as in past years. Our first progress reports of the year will be issued by the end of this week. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.
- **Providing feedback:** As always, LAS appreciates your feedback, suggestions, and ideas. Let us know how our new SIS, INFINITE CAMPUS is working for you as well.



ABOUT US



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Mission

The LAS mission is to create a learning environment where students: Utilize bilingualism and biliteracy (Spanish and English) to achieve academic excellence and apply skills in real-world situations and diverse settings. (BILITERACY) Develop and exhibit positive self-esteem, pride, confidence, and respect for themselves and others. (CONFIDENCE AND LIFE SKILLS) Demonstrate leadership skills in order to build bridges between communities and apply critical thinking skills to solve problems, promote social justice, and create change in society. (LEADERSHIP AND CRITICAL THINKING)

Vision

Our vision is to provide an exceptional Spanish-English bilingual education for all students.

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