

JGMS Parent/Child Contract

August, 2010

Dear Parents and Students:

This year the John Glenn Middle School has instituted revised guidelines for addressing student aggression. We are committed to providing a positive learning environment for all students that ensures personal safety and promotes respect, dignity and equality among students. High standards are expected of students in regards to both academic achievement and social behaviors and interactions. By providing a supportive environment and helping children to learn positive ways to interact, we will be more successful in attaining our educational goals. We know that as children develop, they learn how to treat each other kindly and how to meet their needs in a positive way. Children learn this behavior at home by watching and talking with their parents, as well as by reflecting on what they learn at school in the classroom, on the playground, and at lunch. Like all people, children sometimes make mistakes. While it is understandably upsetting to receive notice that your child has been involved in an incident, please rest assured that if this happens, we will work with you to help your child learn in a positive way from his or her mistakes. All children sometimes make mistakes. To help children who might engage in aggressive behavior learn better from their mistakes, we have developed a clear, standardized set of protocols and procedures to address aggressive behavior. These include:

- definitions of aggression and bullying (see JGMS Handbook)
- an Incident Report Form that can be completed by staff, parents and children
- a clear set of steps to be taken after an incident is reported
- a consequences chart which outlines what consequences will be received when children engage in hurtful behavior
- a process through which a child can help change his/her aggressive behavior (i.e. the Think About It Form)

According to well-researched violence prevention programs, developing this protocol provides a common framework for responding to aggression and is one of the most important things adults can do to decrease bullying. Please review the enclosed packet of information with your child. Please call if you have any questions. After you have reviewed the information and both you and your children have signed the form, please return it to school. Enclosed is copy of our JGMS Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying Plan, an "Incident Report Form," a "Think About It Form," and an information sheet with "Frequently Asked Questions" as they pertain to our plan.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to make our school a safe and positive place for everyone. If you have any concerns, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

P. Jayne Viladenis
Principal

I have reviewed the enclosed information regarding expectations at school and the consequences for engaging in disrespectful and aggressive behavior.

Parent Date

Child Date

Child Date