



# MOLALLA RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Home of the Wolverines

318 Leroy Street, Molalla OR, 97038

Phone 503-829-6133, Fax 503-829-5680

Principal- Randy Dalton, Associate Principal- Matthew Lacy

5/11/18

Dear Molalla River School Parent/Guardian,

Molalla River Middle School is dedicated to providing your child with a safe learning environment. Our staff is working hard on our school culture and has made it our top priority for next year in our school improvement plan. Not wanting to wait, we have been working with several of our students to develop strategies to prevent rudeness, meanness, and bullying from occurring inside and outside of school. Earlier in the year we had an anti-bullying forum. About 60 students joined several adults and student facilitators in the gym to talk about real issues affecting our students at our school. Students spent the time sharing personal stories with their classmate and talking about solutions. The conversations were amazing and the call to continue our efforts were clear.

One of the ideas that was formulated through our conversations and process was to begin to make our student's stories come to life in a safe and structured environment. Essentially, personalizing the stories that show bullying is real and it is happening. Many times students hear about stories from elsewhere and think these things don't happen locally. We wanted to bring awareness that rudeness, meanness, and bullying are indeed happening and it is affecting their classmates and friends. To this end, we are carefully developing an assembly that includes true testimonies from our students, some in person and some in video form. The stories students will be telling are real and contain a small amount of inappropriate language (derogatory name calling terms) that some of our students have had to endure both in and outside of school. The stories are not meant to offend, but to safely confront the effects words and actions can have on people's lives. Our staff have thoughtfully worked with our students on the stories and have minimized the inappropriate language as much as possible, but not so much as to minimize the reality of the personal testimony.

Following the assembly, students will return to their homerooms to reflect on what they heard and will be led through a discussion of the topic. The discussion includes scenarios of bullying and how to help fellow classmates. One of the main ways to help prevent rudeness, meanness, and bullying is training the bystanders how to respond. Following the lesson, students will receive a bracelet that represents their commitment in our fight to provide a safe learning environment our students deserve.

In summary, I am writing to make you aware of the upcoming conversations and real stories of our students, including some stories that contain a small amount of vulgar language (vulgar names they have been called). If you do not want your child to participate in the assembly please return this letter to me, Mr. Dalton, by Wednesday, May 16th so we can make arrangements for your child to be in the library during the assembly. However, your child will return to the classroom for the group discussion. If you have questions, feel free to call me at school at 503-829-6133.

I do not want my child, \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date