Bullying Update

May 2023

Sarah S. McDonald-Egan, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services

Student Support Services staff continue to make frequent contact with students and support any challenges presented regarding academic or social/emotional issues.

Middle School Bullying Prevention Workgroup

For our middle school Kindness Cup Challenge this year we are holding a hashtag contest. The goal is to generate awareness and excitement to create a culture of kindness among middle school students through a hashtag creation project. The top three hashtags will earn the coveted Kindness Cup and the winning hashtag will be featured on AACPS social media sites. We will seek to have winners determined by the week of May 22.

#BeKind

Student Services Updates

- MSDE Point of Contact meeting was attended Thursday, May 18, 2023. MSDE reviewed the expectations with Local Systems for Bullying, Intimidation, or Harassment.
- Annual AACPS Code of Conduct Committee meeting #3 was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Recommendations have been forwarded to the superintendent for review and approval.
- Recruiting and hiring school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists and pupil personnel workers for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Conducting AACPS staff professional development:
  - Youth Mental Health First Aid
  - Second Step SEL Adult
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Interface Training
- Partnering with Attendance Works to support positive attendance and decrease chronic absenteeism in the Annapolis and Meade clusters. This will be expanding to the North County cluster in 2023-24.
- Presenting on school mental health supports to the four Communities of Hope through the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families.
- Continuing to support students with and without insurance through the Expanded School-Based Mental Health program.
- Supporting students with substance use challenges through the AACPS Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Team.
Reported Incidents for the 2022-23 School Year

Reports of Bullying: 1,419
- 233 at the high school level,
- 586 at the middle school level,
- 541 at the elementary school level,
- 59 at other* schools.

Bias Motivated Behavior Forms: 356
- 54 at the high school level,
- 161 at the middle school level,
- 138 at the elementary school level.
- 3 at other* schools.

*Other schools include: Chesapeake Science Point, Mary Moss at Adams Academy, Monarch Academy, Monarch Annapolis, Monarch Global Academy, Phoenix Academy