

High School Process to Report Acts of Bullying

Anyone (students, parents, staff, other concerned parties) should report bullying directly to the principal or an assistant principal, but there are a number of options when choosing how to report. Reports may be oral, in the form of email, or through a formal, written report. Reporting anonymously is possible by mailing or placing a written report directly in the mailbox of the principal. It should be noted that anonymous reporting, while perfectly acceptable, may make the subsequent investigation a bit more difficult. Nonetheless, any form of reporting bullying is far better than choosing not to do so. Complainants will be assisted, as necessary, in submitting the district bullying reporting form.

Ledyard High School makes every effort to maintain a positive and safe school climate and to instill in our students the qualities of our Civic and Social Expectations. They read as follows:

Students and graduates of Ledyard High School will:

1. Demonstrate citizenship, integrity, and respect for self and others.
2. Contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment.
3. Demonstrate independence and self-reliance.

Accordingly, Ledyard High School adheres strictly to all laws and responsibilities related to stopping bullying at Connecticut schools. In accordance with and in addition to that law:

- Ledyard High School maintains a Climate Team consisting of all building administrators, our director of guidance, the special education coordinator, all Interdisciplinary Leaders (department heads), our director of agricultural sciences and technology, and our school librarian. During meetings, the team discusses our perceptions of school climate and related data, such as survey results, school discipline and bullying numbers.
- Ledyard High School administration conduct monthly Parent Advisory Council meetings, at which we engage parents in discussions on all aspects of school climate and other issues.
- At introductory student assemblies, held each year, the Principal reviews the laws and consequences associated with bullying, the definition of bullying, the conditions which can lead to bullying, ways to recognize bullying, the means to report bullying, and how every person can meet his or her responsibility for stopping bullying.
- During sophomore CAPT testing, an extended advisory lesson is presented to all freshmen, allowing them to work in small groups to explore their own opinions and experiences around bullying and then to write a "kindness manifesto" as a group.
- Teacher Professional Development time is used to ensure complete understanding by staff of the law and its proper implementation in accordance with Ledyard Board of Education policy. Teachers are reminded of proper reporting protocols and timelines.
- The LHS Health class is a requirement of all students. Its curriculum deals extensively with issues related to self-image, healthy choices, and developing respect through understanding psychological and physiological differences inherent in the make-up of peers and other human beings.
- The comprehensive guidance curriculum includes a "Peer Relations" lesson for freshmen.
- The English 9 curriculum uses a series of articles about bullying to teach the various structures of informational text and then links those articles to William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* in the following unit.

Other actions and events which contribute to a positive school climate include:

- Blue and White Day (fall and spring) – an all-school assembly in the gymnasium designed to establish community, emphasize unity, and herald the accomplishments of students

- Spirit Week – a friendly, creative competition among graduating classes culminating in a school spirit pep rally and our Homecoming Dance
- Front showcase displays of student work, including artwork, student writing and photography, pre-engineering and calculus projects, and handcrafted creations from our metals and woods students
- Hallway showcase and bulletin board displays of student work, particularly of visual art work in the 200s and 600s hallways, both of which have been converted in “galleries,” through which student work is rotated.
- Maintenance of main hallway bulletin boards that recognize:
 - o Student leaders
 - o Athletic accomplishments
 - o Class officers and upcoming events by class
 - o Twitter contributions from Ledyard students, clubs, and staff
 - o Spotlight on a different aspect of the school each month
- Quarterly posting of honor roll lists
- Daily announcements of birthday wishes and noteworthy student achievements whenever appropriate
- Ongoing slideshow display on the three large TVs (in the foyer and cafeteria), showcasing student accomplishments and upcoming student events
- Administration, guidance, and agri-science led spring and summer orientations for all incoming students
- Administrative practice of greeting arriving students every morning, both outside and in our front lobby
- An annual College Fair which brings representatives from over one hundred colleges to our school and leads hundreds of our students and their parents to visit and gather information on a variety of schools and other career options
- An annual Career Day which brings representatives from nearly one hundred professions so that students can have a series of twenty-minute meetings which explore in detail careers which may be of interest to them

LHS sponsors student organizations which contribute to creating a positive school climate. These include:

- Gay/Straight Alliance: this group meets regularly during Activity Period and promotes tolerance and support for and among all students. The members of this organization and their faculty advisor also attend the annual True Colors Conference.
- More than Words: this group is a collaboration of students and faculty from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Ledyard High School, New London High School, and Robert E. Fitch High School. Nearly 40 students and 10 adults, including administrators, participate in each meeting. Meetings function as discussion seminars, and group members focus on diversity. Most recently, More Than Words members have delivered two very successful outreach lessons at the elementary and middle school levels.
- Peer Mediation: over 20 students, selected through an interview process, receive training for the purpose of providing student-led opportunities to resolve many issues which lead to negativity. These interventions have proven to be highly effective at resolving differences and teaching students how to manage differences before they become heated issues.
- National Honor Society: this group conducts “coffeehouses” for student performances, holiday food and toy drives, and academic tutoring for all student peers who request it.
- Student Congress: this group holds student recreational activities such as dances, coordinates Spirit Week and the Homecoming Dance, and collaborates with the American Red Cross to organize two blood drives a year.

LHS provides the forum for student events or student-centered displays, which contribute to creating a positive school climate. These include:

- Regular fundraising activities, such as dodgeball, three-on-three basketball, a 5k road race, and pickle ball and badminton tournaments to raise money for scholarships.
- In-house leadership training for athletes. These training sessions emphasize qualities necessary to bring about positive change in both athletic teams and beyond.
- Maintenance of bulletin boards around the building, heralding the music student of the month, the efforts of the Ocean Bowl team, the topics of Agri-Science senior projects, etc.
- Honors assemblies, which recognize student achievement in academics and many other areas in which our students are involved.
- Assemblies which bring in military veterans, Holocaust survivors, poets, drug and alcohol awareness professionals, filmmakers, financial advisors, and others, which engage students by appealing to their interests and level of physical and mental development.
- Assemblies which feature performances by our highly enrolled choral and instrumental groups, affording students within those groups the opportunity to demonstrate their talents before an audience of their peers.
- Floral, landscape, and fish tank displays set up and maintained by our agricultural sciences and technology students, affording students within agriscience the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in a broader school context.
- The opportunity for art students to make a lasting impression by creating decorative murals around the school on unifying themes.