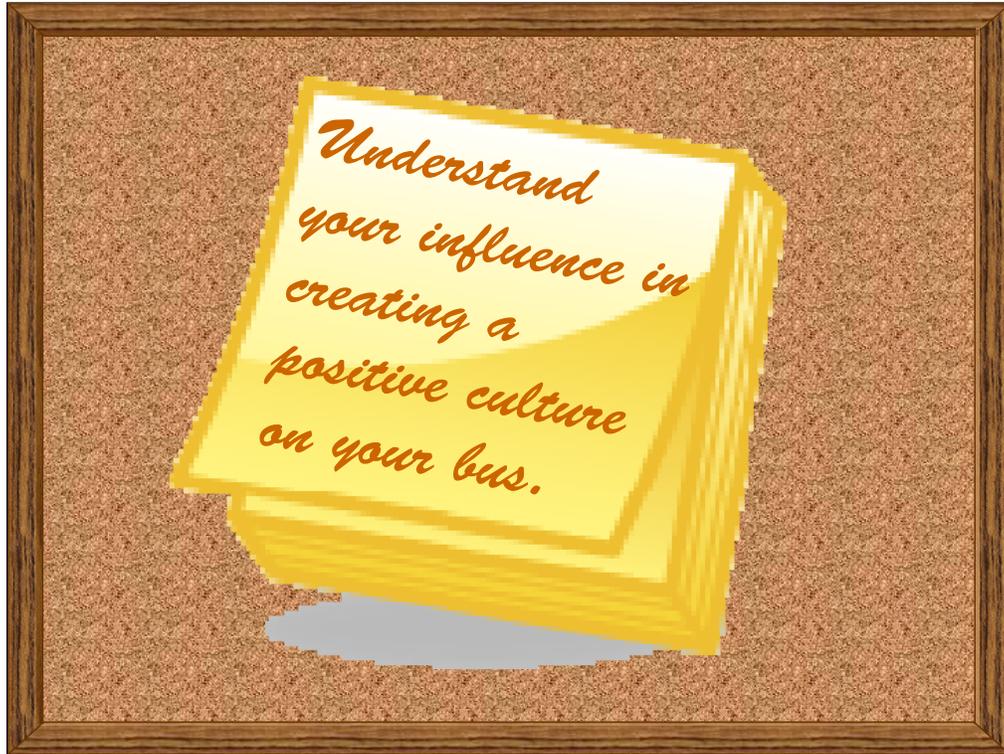
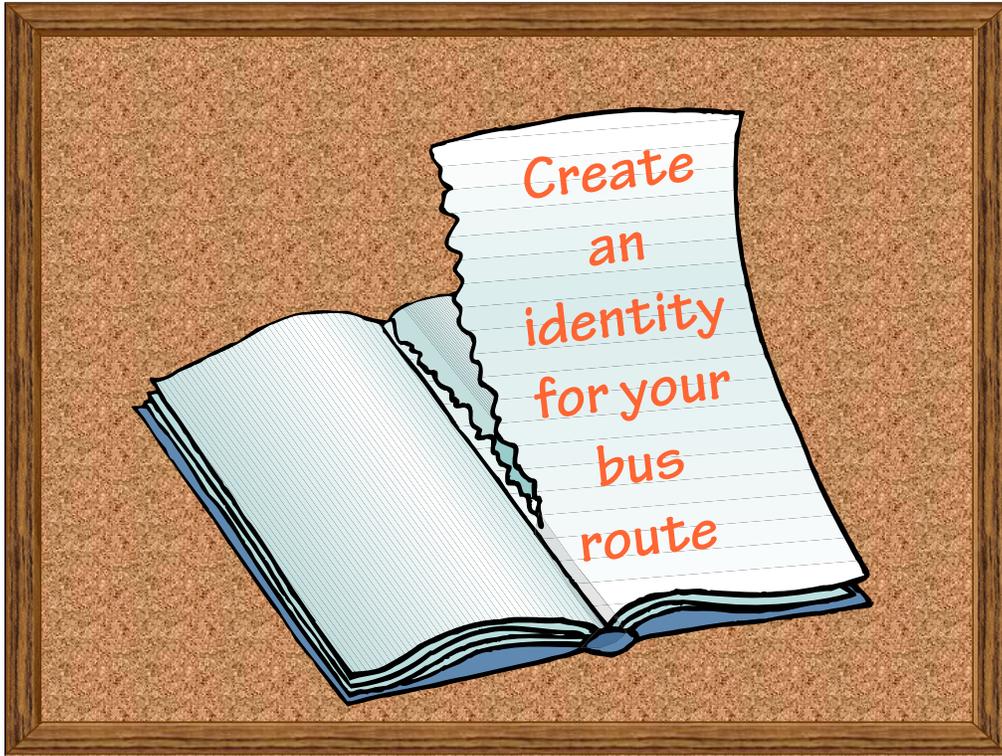


How to Handle It!

**A Bus Driver's Guide to
Preventing and Intervening
in Bullying**



The core focus for the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Program for Nassau County 2010-11 is "Creating a Culture of Civility – The Adults in the District as Role Models."



Make the ride to and from school a pleasant experience. What are things you can do to help your bus students “own” their bus?

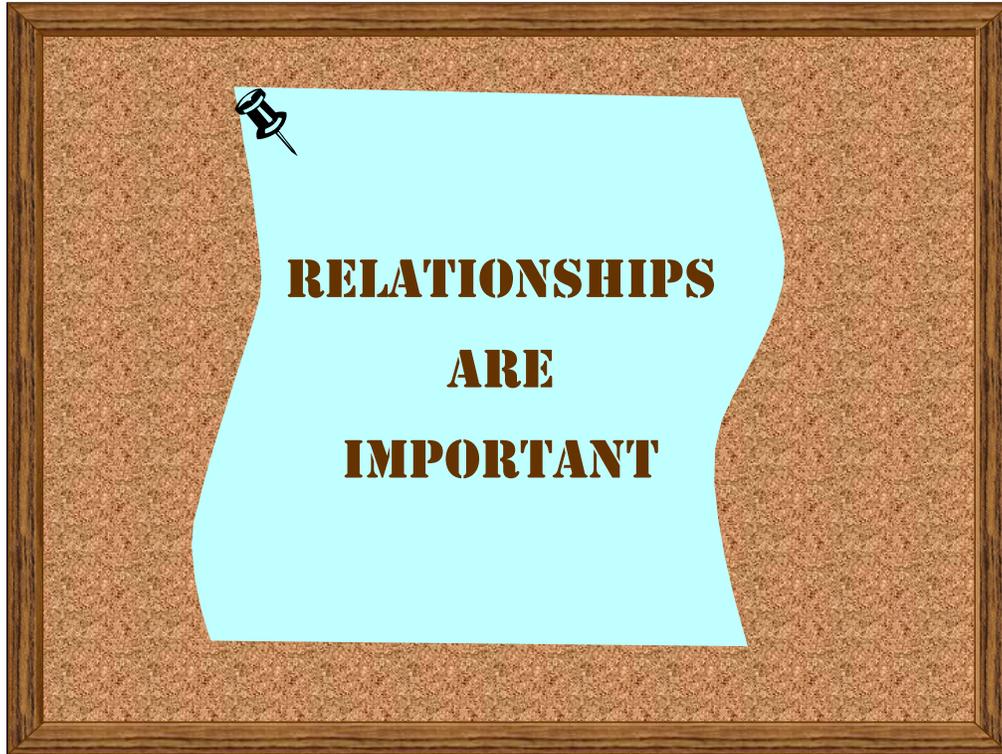


Think of preventing problems as an investment. The payoff is that you will not have to spend so much time disciplining and focusing on negative behavior.

What are steps to take in preventing problems/negative outcomes?

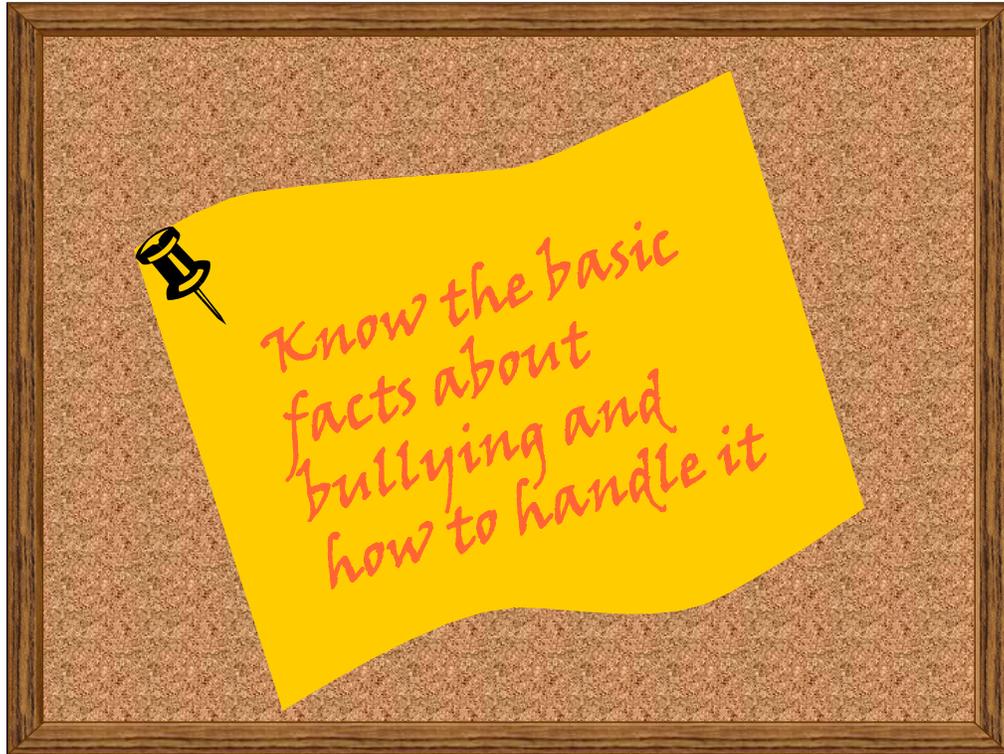
- Thinking about what the possible consequences or outcomes of a situation might be and figuring out ways to avoid the bad ones.
- Making rules to obtain positive outcomes rather than negative outcomes.
- Coaching students in desired behavior.
- Having students practice correct procedures and behavior.
- Training students to behave a certain way before situations occur.
- Modeling desired behavior.
- Developing good relationships.
- Having a plan.

These are not all-inclusive! Can you think of others?



“Creating a Culture of Civility” means designing a bus experience for students in which respect for oneself, the environment, and others is foremost. In order to develop good relationships with others, showing respect and interest in them as individuals is key.

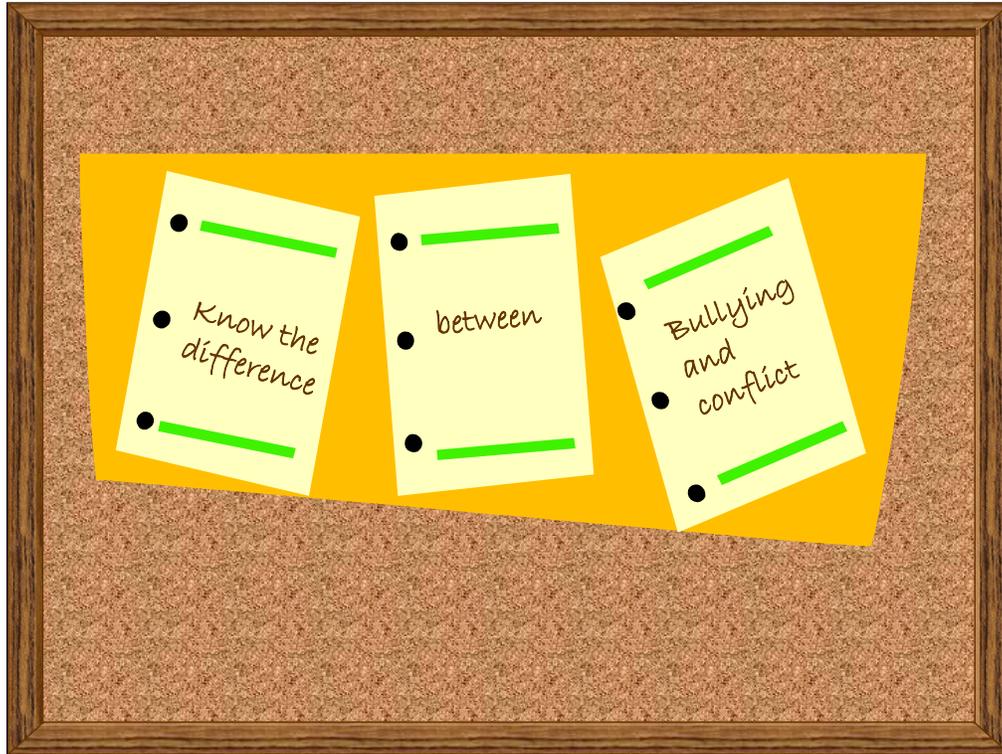
If students “like” you, they will be loyal to you. Students should “like” you as an ADULT, not as a peer. There is a big difference! What are things that you can do to develop positive, appropriate relationships with students... and their parents?



Refer to the presentation from 2009-10 – Preventing Bullying: For Bus Drivers, found on the Administrative Services page of the Nassau County School Board website (www.nassau.k12.fl.us). On the district website, under “Contents” go to “departments” then click “Administrative Services.” Under “Contents,” click on “Bullying Prevention and Intervention Program.”



Go over bus expectations with students. This includes not only the bus rules, but also your expectations that everyone will have a pleasant ride, that everyone will be respectful of others and of the environment. Post rules, refer to rules when correcting students, **model civil behavior for students**.

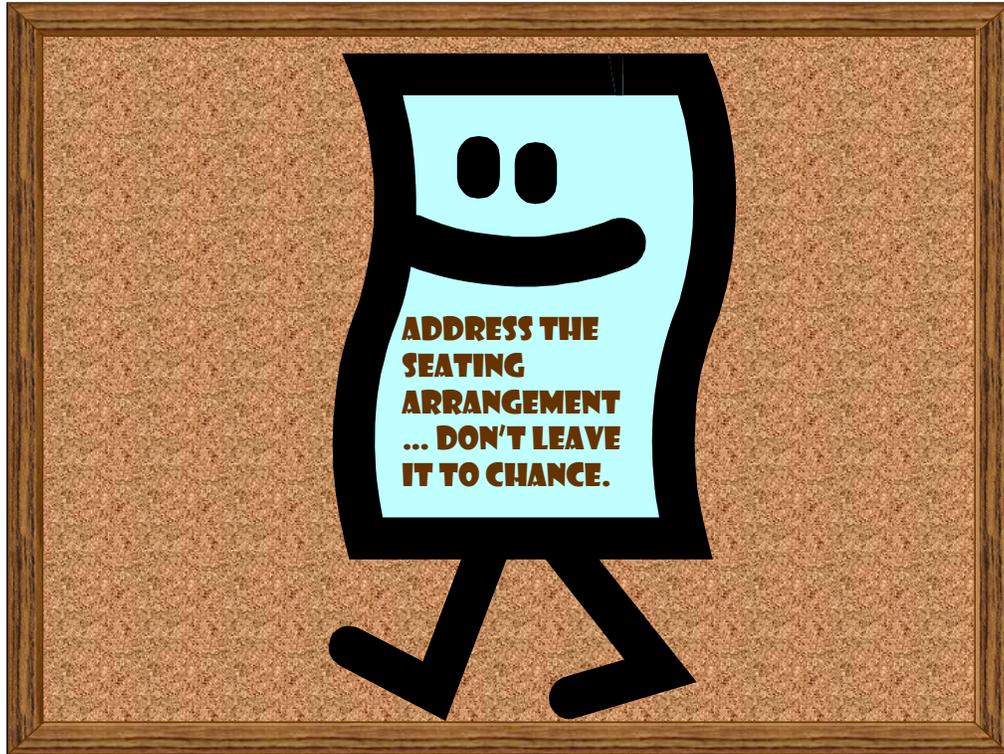


Bullying is systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on someone. The bully intends to hurt the victim. The behavior is repeated. The behavior unreasonably interferes with the victim's school performance or participation. It occurs in a relationship where one individual has perceived power over another.

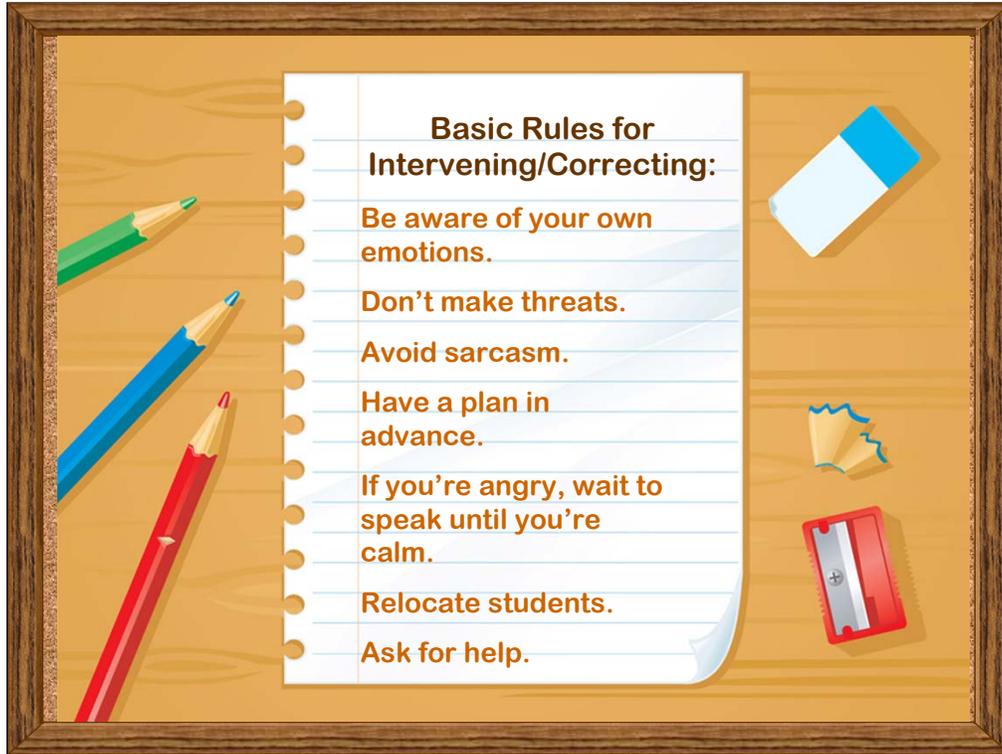
Conflict is when two children of equal status have an isolated event of arguing, fighting, etc., that can be resolved by mediation in many cases.

Bullying cannot be solved by mediation.

A key question to ask when two students are having a problem is, "Has this happened before?" Keep a record of incidents in order to determine whether actions are repeated.



Have a seating chart. This is helpful not only on a daily basis for the driver in establishing and maintaining order on the bus, but also in emergencies, for assisting a substitute driver, and in disciplinary cases where the school needs to know the names of children in the vicinity when an incident happens.



Above all, the intervening adult's role is to protect the safety of students and to de-escalate a situation. When correcting students, avoid behaviors that make the situation worse. If two children are involved, separate them.



Parents want to know that you recognize their children as individuals with good qualities, even when the children misbehave. It is very important to establish a good working relationship with parents.

Working together as a team – and the child knows you are a team – the bus driver and the parent can be much more successful in changing a child's behavior. When someone focuses negatively on the child and not just the behavior, parents will be defensive, even when they know the child has misbehaved.

Never retaliate against a child if you have a conflict with the child's parents.



If a parent has a complaint, even if the parent is wrong, listen to what the parent has to say.

If you have done something wrong, be willing to admit it and discuss with the parent what you are going to do to correct the mistake.

Even if you have not done something wrong, express regret to the parent that there has been a misunderstanding.

Rather than argue with a parent, suggest having a conference with the school officials and/or with the Director of Transportation to work things out.

