



Dear Battle Creek Elementary Families,

Hello! At Battle Creek we have a strong team that supports students in and out of the classroom with community culture, including behaviors and communication between peers. We have a multi-tiered approach, as follows:

Whole School:

- Classroom School Counseling Lessons in Quarter 2 (November - February) teach every student how to
 - practice empathy
 - recognize and prevent bullying
 - refuse to participate in bullying
 - report the issue to an adult
 - be a kind and helpful “upstander” rather than a passive bystander
- [Anti-bullying contract](#)
- Turtle Tickets help students focus on positive behaviors
- [Turtle Pledge](#) - recited over the loudspeaker and shown in the classroom every morning.

Supporting small groups of students:

- Counselors and social workers organize small groups that meet once per week for 6-8 weeks to support students who are showing a need for more connection and social skills. Groups check in and do activities together that teach friendship skills, self-advocacy skills.

Supporting individuals:

- Achievement team behavior responders, counselors, social workers and administrators facilitate restorative conversations for students in 1-time small groups as needed to help address conflicts and resolve misunderstandings.
- Check and Connect - one-on-one check-ins as needed with Assistant Principal and Achievement Team members.

Conflicts and misunderstandings are opportunities for learning and growth, and our community at Battle Creek is supported by a caring team of adults who help students in need when teachers are working with the whole class.

Meet the Battle Creek staff who help students with misunderstandings, disagreements, or bullying:

Ms. Longway is the Principal at Battle Creek Elementary. Her role is to monitor the school's overall organizational management, student learning and student safety. Ms. Longway believes that students do their best learning when they feel cared for by school staff and feel they are part of the school community.

This framework was developed by Administration, School Support Staff and Educators to guide staff on how we respond to any bullying situations that may arise as well as guide parents on how bullying is handled at our school.

If administration learns of a bullying situation from a student or parent expressing concern, the following steps occur:

- ❖ Administration fully investigates the alleged bullying situation.
- ❖ After the investigation, if an Administrator can substantiate that a bullying situation has occurred, Administration will contact family members to inform them of the situation.
- ❖ Next step consequences will occur through Administration based on SPPS Student's Rights and Responsibilities book which can be found at: <https://www.spps.org/Page/3249>

Mr. Parks is the Assistant Principal at Battle Creek Elementary. His role to prevent bullying at Battle Creek and increase awareness is to model, and increase positive behaviors. He increases positive behaviors by creating school-wide community building activities and showing students how to build positive relationships. He reinforces district rules and policies that clearly describe how students are expected to treat each other. These rules are also outlined in our Rights and Responsibilities handbook that Mr. Parks presents to staff and students at the start of the school year. Mr. Parks is available to speak with parents, students, and staff to address any concerns around bullying.

Ms. Haley and Ms. Laurel, Battle Creek Elementary's school counselors, help students develop the academic and social-emotional skills that will aid their success in school and in life. They also teach students about careers and postsecondary options to provide a foundation that students can build on as they get older. They, as well as the School Social Workers, Ms. Mai Zia and Mr. Andy, work with students in small groups as well as individually, to help them with social skills and connections with others.

Achievement Team Members, Ms. Butler, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Lee, support students by being watchful and encouraging of kind behavior during lunch, recess, in the hallways and in the classrooms. They facilitate restorative conversations as needed.

“It takes a village to raise a child”

Parents/Guardians, you can reinforce students' understanding of bullying and how they can be assertive and supportive when something unkind is happening by teaching them the following:

- “Bullying” means someone is being mean over and over again, on purpose, and it's one-sided (the other student isn't being mean back). This word is misused a lot!
- When a student sees or experiences someone being mean or bullying, they can ask that student to stop and tell an adult at school right away.
- Students can be kind and friendly every day by choosing words and actions that make others feel happy and valued. This helps make our community a wonderful place to learn together!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns or questions.