

Unionville Elementary Anti-Bullying Plan 2022-2023

In an effort to make Unionville a safe environment for all students to learn, all stakeholders at Unionville Elementary are involved in the anti-bullying plan. The following programs/activities have been implemented to affect students on a school-wide, classroom, and individual level in order to best help develop positive character traits a bully-free school.

1. PBIS
2. Character Education Program
3. Terrific Kids Program
4. Principal Paw Awards
5. Safety Patrol
6. Classroom Guidance
7. Small Counseling and Psycho-educational Groups
8. Individual Counseling
9. School Counseling Website
10. School to Home Communication
11. School-wide procedures
12. UCPS Collaboration with DHS
13. Apply Discipline as prescribed by Union County Public Schools/Zero Tolerance Policy
14. Supporting District-Wide Programs: Start with Hello Week, Bullying Awareness Month, Blue Up Day, Unity Day

1. PBIS – There are numerous programs throughout our school where positive behavior is acknowledged and students are rewarded for making good choices. Students can earn individual Golden Tickets and classes can earn Paws for good behavior during their CSPAM classes.
2. Character Education – Each 9 weeks, a different character trait is focused on throughout the school. Teachers recognize students with verbal praise who are seen displaying and modeling positive character traits in and out of the classroom and classroom guidance lessons incorporate the current character trait into each lesson.
3. Terrific Kids – Four celebrations are held throughout the school year in which students are recognized in front of peers and family members for exemplifying the current character trait. Teachers and classes nominate students to receive a Terrific Kid award whom they feel is a positive role model to other students. Through partnering with the Kiwanis Club in the community, this program is possible.

4. Principal Paw Awards – At the end of each 9 weeks the principal personally recognizes a student in each K – 5 classroom who have set positive examples for other students through their words and actions.
5. Safety Patrol – Select 5th grade students who have displayed positive behavior are given the responsibility of helping ensure that the hallways and cafeteria are free of bullying behaviors during arrival and dismissal times.
6. Classroom Guidance – Lessons are provided by the School Counselor to all students in K – 5 on a regular basis. One definition of bullying will be taught to all students, safe and confidential ways to report bullying will be taught, and specific lessons focusing on bullying including types of bullying (including cyberbullying, social isolation), why students bully, the different types of roles involved in bullying (i.e. bystander, victim), and appropriate ways to handle bullying will be taught.
7. Counseling and Psycho-educational Groups - Small groups will be provided to those students who have been identified via parent or teacher referrals. The topics of these groups will vary and will be developed to meet students' needs, but will help the students develop necessary skills to be successful in school. Topics and strategies help students develop positive coping skills and relationships through discussions, role-plays, experiential activities, etc.
8. Individual Counseling – Individual counseling will be provided to those students who are being affected by bullying behaviors – either as the victim or as the bully - via teacher and staff observations, student referrals, and parent referrals.
9. School Counseling Website – The School Counselor has a website on the Unionville page where parents and students can find resources regarding bullying. There is also a link where parents and students can request support from the counselor and to report any bullying that has occurred.
10. Parent Communications – Parents receive frequent communications to help ensure that they are aware of efforts to promote positive, non-bullying behaviors at Unionville Elementary. Parents notified of students who are selected to receive Terrific Kids and Principal Paw awards. Teachers, administrators and counselors communicate concerns regarding bullying behaviors to parents to help reduce bullying behaviors and help ensure all students feel safe at Unionville Elementary.

11. School-wide Procedures – All teachers use the 5-4-3-2-1 method for getting their students' attention, as well as having a numbered line order for all classes. Not only do students always know where their designated places in line are, but teachers can also better monitor their students when in transition. The school counselor also has a mailbox for students to use (with request forms) to let her know they would like to talk, as well as student self-referral forms in all classrooms in grades 2 – 5.
12. UCPS Collaborative with DHS – Union County schools have extra support personnel in place due to this collaborative effort with the Department of Human Services. Unionville is fortunate to have two social workers and a behavioral therapist this year.
13. Apply Discipline – Unionville will administer discipline to students who violate behavior guidelines as prescribed in Section 4-3 of Board policy. The school counselor will follow up with both the victims of bullying, as well as the child who was bullying, to support them as they move forward.

14. District-Wide Programs:

*Start with Hello Week – Unionville teachers were given suggestions for how to implement the Start with Hello Campaign within their classrooms. They could choose from a list of children's picture books that teach about social isolation and how to be a good friend to all, through kindness, empathy, acceptance, and inclusion. Other suggestions included incorporating time within the day to promote a sense of community within the classroom, creative writing, and getting to know you activities. There are also themed days throughout the week to reinforce the concept, as well as activities on The Counseling Corner website.

The following are also celebrated at Unionville with school-wide participation, themed days, and information on the school counseling website:

- *National Bullying Awareness Month
- *Blue UP Day
- *Unity Day