

# TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1829 NORTH CAMBRIDGE, ORANGE, CA 92865  
Telephone: 714-997-6254 Fax: 714-997-6259

Principal: Connie P. Smith

Dear Taft 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student:

California law (Ed Code §32261, §48900(a)(1), §48900(r)), District board policy (BP 5131), and our school rules protect you against bullying and/or cyberbullying.

Bullying is defined as harassment of students including intimidation, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or *threatens to cause* bodily harm or emotional suffering. Cyberbullying includes transmission of communication, posting harassing messages, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet or using any other technology. (BP 5131(a)).

Here at Taft School, we desire to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate, and clear rules for student conduct. Too often students are put in a position where they believe taking action and saying something might be more harmful than keeping quiet. In fact, every student has the responsibility to help stop any type of bullying by 1) stopping rumors whenever possible, 2) telling an adult/supervisor when you see someone being bullied, or 3) telling an adult or campus supervisor when you hear of plans to bully someone or start a fight. We all have a responsibility to uphold the rights of the students here at the school.

### All students at Taft School have a right to the following:

- A safe, secure, and peaceful school environment where you are free from bullying, threats, and harassment, either physical or emotional.
- To submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct you feel might be considered bullying to a teacher or the principal.
- To make the above complaints anonymous and without fear that your name will be divulged (it will be kept in confidence).

Students who violate District or school rules and regulations regarding bullying may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or transfer to alternative programs (BP 5131(b), Ed Code cited above, §48900.4).

### The discipline procedure for bullying is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Investigation by principal, counseling, verbal warning, parent contacted.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Probable suspension (1 to 5 days depending on severity); Parent required to attend a portion of the school day in your classroom (§48900.1(a)).  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Automatic suspension; Probable referral to placement hearing.

Please note that all students in a group are equally at fault for bullying. If you have friends who are bullying a student, you must immediately remove yourself from the situation and report it.

*By signing this, you are acknowledging that you understand 1) what bullying and cyberbullying is; 2) your rights regarding bullying; and, 3) the possible consequences associated with bullying others.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date