

Steps to Respect

Dear Family,

Children learn best when they feel safe, respected, and cared for. In our continuing effort to create a safe and positive learning environment, your child's classroom is using the ***Steps to Respect, Bullying Prevention Curriculum***. This program is designed to prevent bullying and promote responsible, respectful student behavior. It was developed by the *Committee for Children*, the same organization that created the ***Second Step, a Violence Prevention Curriculum*** we have been teaching in Tahoma schools for many years and continue in grades kindergarten to second grade to form a solid foundation of social emotional skills.

Students in grades 3 – 5 participate in *Steps to Respect* lessons in their classrooms. They will learn:

- How to recognize, refuse, and report bullying when it happens to them or someone else.
- Friendship skills that reduce the risk of being bullied, including how to make friends, join group activities, and manage conflicts.
- Emotional skills, such as understanding the feeling of others and managing emotions.
- How to use social emotional skills (responsibility, respect, and caring for others) as a guide for behavior.

Students from all classes in grades 1 – 5 will be taught how to recognize and respond to bullying behaviors and how to access support at Lake Wilderness Elementary.

Teachers, playground supervisors, and other school staff will receive additional training to effectively respond to bullying situations using the ***Steps to Respect*** model.

I am very excited about implementing ***Steps to Respect*** at Lake Wilderness. It is a very nice extension of the social emotional learning students have developed in earlier grades in the ***Second Step*** Program. Building on skills of empathy, impulse control, and anger management, the ***Steps to Respect*** lessons brings home the importance of building a community of mutual respect for one another while equipping students with practical skills for dealing with situations where respect is lacking. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the ***Steps to Respect*** program. Additionally, if you have questions or concerns about the school's policies or procedures for response in bullying situations, please contact Chris Bilka, Dean of Students.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Bowen
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Lake Wilderness Elementary
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Chris Bilka
Dean of Students
Lake Wilderness Elementary
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