

## Staying Safe as a Blue Water Middle College Academy Student

It is the policy of the Blue Water Middle College Academy to provide a safe learning environment that is free from bullying and cyber-bullying. The BWCA complies with all requirements of the *Matt Epling Safe School Law*, Section 380.1310b of P.A. 451. *Matt's Law*, as it is commonly known, requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy addressing bullying and cyber-bullying. To view our complete Bullying and Cyber-Bullying Policy go to <http://tinyurl.com/bwmcAnti-BullyingPolicy> or click on the link on the BWCA home webpage.

In short, we want students, parents and staff to recognize and know how to report incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation for reporting such incidents. Definitions and examples of *bullying* and *cyber-bullying* are listed on the back of this page.

### Reporting bullying and other safety concerns

An easy and anonymous way to report incidents is through Michigan's Ok2Say program. Clicking on the Ok2Say image on our home page or going to [ok2say.com](http://ok2say.com) allows you to anonymously report bullying and many other student/school safety issues, including suicide threats, self-harm, drugs, anxiety, and possible plans of harm to others; e.g., shoot shooting.



You should always feel comfortable contacting a Blue Water Middle College Academy staff member to report something. If the issue is related to someone or something at SC4, you can contact someone in SC4's Human Resources or Student Services Departments or SC4's Campus Patrol.

However the situation is reported, you should expect quick follow-up. Depending on the incident(s), follow-up will be handled by one or more of the student's schools (BWMCA, partner high school, SC4) and/or local law enforcement. If you do not receive very prompt follow up contact, please contact Mr. Spencer at [spencer.pete@sccresa.org](mailto:spencer.pete@sccresa.org) or 810-989-5805 or by stopping in the middle college office.

### Retaliation for reporting

It is important to know that retaliation against a person who reports bullying or cyber-bullying will not be tolerated and will be punished accordingly. Students who report bullying or cyber-bullying or who provide information during an investigation of bullying/cyber-bullying who are threatened or retaliated against in any way should immediately report the retaliation to a staff member at one of their schools.

### SC4 Student Safety and Emergency Information document

All students and parents should read the information included in the SC4 document found via the link below. It lists safety tips and procedures for topics including personal safety, fire safety, active shooter and extreme weather situations, and sexual misconduct. You will also find a list of over 15 campus patrol services you might not be aware of.



<https://sc4.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/student-safety-and-emergency-information-sheet-long-10-04-16.pdf>

## Definitions

**“Bullying”** is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to his property;
- Places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or his property;
- Creates a hostile environment at the school for the victim;
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a school.

**“Cyber-Bullying”** is defined as bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by such things as electronic mail, internet communications, instant message, text messaging or facsimile.

Cyber-bullying includes;

- The creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; or
- The knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages; if the creation or impersonation is a violation under the law.

Cyber-bullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting is a violation of the law.

## Follow-up Steps

Reports of bullying or cyber-bullying will be promptly investigated. If the school director determines that bullying or retaliation has occurred, and the Blue Water Middle College Academy Director believes that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator. The director shall then;

- Take the appropriate disciplinary action;
- Notify the parents or guardians of the perpetrator;
- Notify the parents or guardians of the victim, and to the extent consistent with state and federal law, notify them of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation.

Questions: If you have questions about bullying and/or harassment of any kind or you think you should report something you have experienced or observed, please contact any Blue Water Middle College Academy staff member or go to [ok2say.com](http://ok2say.com).