

# Middle School Social/Emotional/Behavior Ins and Outs

Tips for students and parents about social/emotional/behavioral expectations.

- Social Media
- Cell Phones
- Character Strong/WEB
- Problem Solving/Conflict Resolution
- Bullying
- Passing Periods
- Discipline Procedures
- Dress Code
- Prohibited Items



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# Proactive Approach- Focus on School Culture

## WEB Program

WEB is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade success.

## Character Strong

Establish a strong foundation of social & emotional skills among students by teaching healthy habit development, social awareness strategies, empathy building techniques, and more.

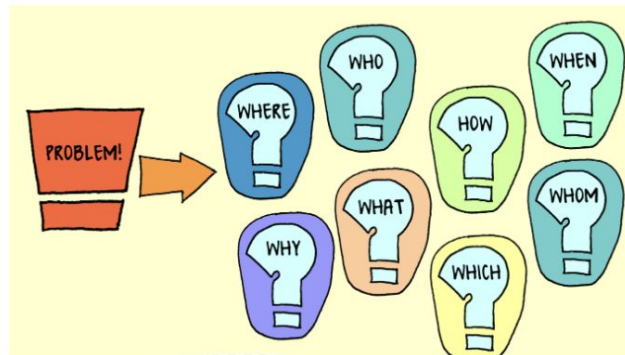
## Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution

Our counselors and administration take a problem solving and educational approach to discipline focusing on learning and repairing with appropriate behavior and relationships. All reported issues are processed with student statements, check-ins, parent communication, and collaborative problem solving when appropriate. The goal is always to address a situation and why it happened and support strategies so it doesn't continue.

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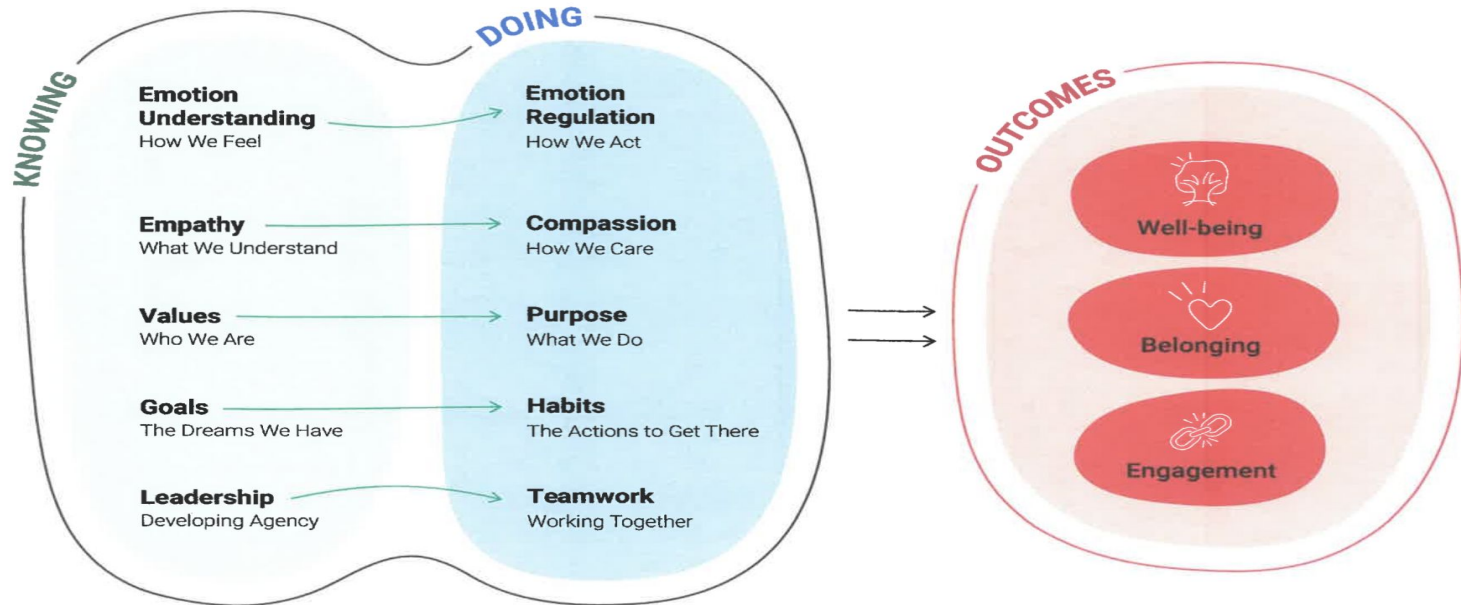
*Character Strong*

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## SECONDARY Ingredients & Outcomes

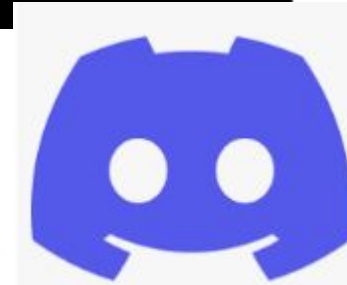
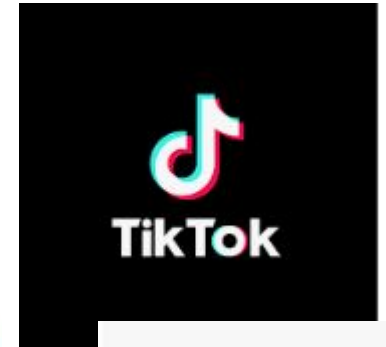
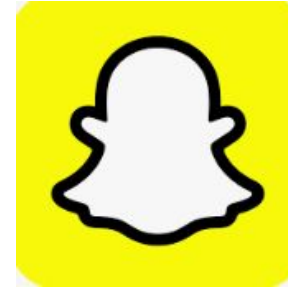


# Top Challenging Issues at the Middle Level

Cell Phones, Social Media, Social Conflict, Vaping, & Marijuana

Most of our social conflicts happen on social media. These are the most challenging because school does not support, have control, or access to students social media accounts on their personal cell phones. These devices are owned by families.

Vaping- The number of students trying vaping and bringing devices to campus is extremely high.



| Conflict  | Rude  | Mean   | Bullying  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Isolated and unusual                                  | Occasional and Pattern-less                           | Once or Twice                                      | Chronic and repeated  |
| Spontaneous in the heat of the moment                 | May be spontaneous and unintentional                  | Intentional  | Planned, deliberate, on purpose                               |
| All Parties are upset                                 | Can cause hurt feelings; upset                        | Can hurt others deeply                             | The target of the bullying is upset                           |
| All parties want to work things out                   | Based in thoughtlessness, poor manners or selfishness | Based in anger; impulsive cruelty                  | The bully is trying to gain control over the target           |
| All Parties will accept responsibility                | Rude person accepts responsibility                    | Behavior often regretted                           | The bully blames the target                                   |
| An effort is made by all parties to solve the problem | Behavior should be briefly monitored                  | Moderate risk of developing into bullying behavior | The target wants bully's behavior to stop, the bully does not |
| Can be resolved through mediation                     | Social skills building could be of benefit            | Needs to be addressed/should not be ignored        | CANNOT be resolved through mediation                          |

### Conflict

### Bullying

| Equal power              |
|--------------------------|
| One time / occasionally  |
| Accidental / Not planned |
| No serious, lasting harm |
| Equal emotional reaction |
| Not seeking power        |
| Often: remorse           |
| May try to solve problem |

| Imbalance of power                |
|-----------------------------------|
| Repeated over time                |
| Intentional                       |
| Physical/emotional harm           |
| Unequal emotional reaction        |
| Seeking control/possession        |
| No remorse-blames target          |
| <u>No effort to solve problem</u> |

# Bullying vs. Social Conflict

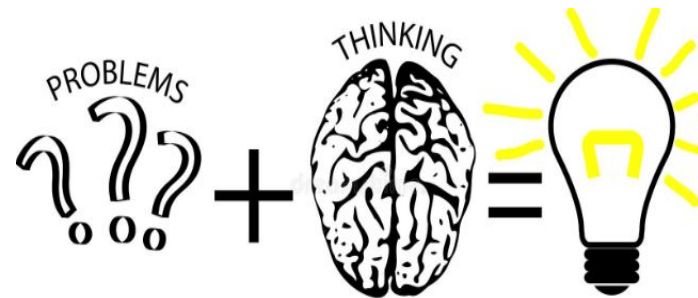
Many of our students are navigating and learning social skills and norms that vary from social group to social group. We have a large amount of normal social conflict at school we support students navigating. We also have a wide range of maturity levels at the middle school level to take into consideration.

We encourage students to talk to a trusting adult at school or at home to navigate challenging social situations and get help when needed.



# Discipline Philosophy and Processes

Every student has the right to come to school, learn, and feel safe. We are balancing learning, social skill development, and safety to support all students.



When an issue is reported:

- Staff will take statements and **investigate** issue. (teachers, counselors, administrators)
- **Problem Solve** the issue and provide support and offer resources. **Collaborate** with families for
- **Repair/Consequences**- can included but not limited to: parent contact, behavior plan, lunch detention, community service, apology, time in student support center, in school suspension, or out of school suspension.



**SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY.**



# A Few Other Important Notes:

- Passing Periods
  - Students have 3-4 minutes between classes. The goal is for students to transition from one class to the other and to be to class on time.
- Bathrooms
- Prohibited Items
  - Weapons of any kind, Energy Drinks, Gum, Anything for Sale, Vapes
- Dress Code- Our goal is to be a learning environment.



## Students May Not Wear Clothing With:

- Violent language or images
- Images or language that encourages the use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or the use of any other drugs.
- Images or language that depicts illegal activity or that creates a hostile environment
- Hate speech, gang/hate group affiliation, profanity, or pornography
- Bathing suit tops, tube tops, or sports bras (unless worn underneath another approved article of clothing)
- Visible underwear or boxers
- Masks\* and headwear that conceal the face (except for religious, medical, and/or health related purposes)
- Dangerous or sharp objects that could be used as a weapon, spikes, etc.

\*Unless directed by state, county, or district officials

# Contacts/Questions?

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