

HANDOUT 3.3 A - SAMPLE PARENT LETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We all care deeply about the safety and well-being of our children. We want to make sure that we provide a safe environment in which they may grow emotionally as well as intellectually. Therefore, bullying and any form of harassment is taken very seriously.

During the next few weeks the students will be given valuable information about how to deal with bullying. They will participate in interdisciplinary ELA and Social Studies lessons where they will gain a greater understanding of bullying and the choices and actions they may take to stop it. In the context of this unit students will also learn about the Holocaust as an extreme example of man's inhumanity to man. At no time will students be exposed to frightening images inappropriate for children.

We will address the following focus questions: What can happen when bullying is not stopped? How can all of us work to ensure that no one is victimized? How do people confront chapters of their history that reflect prejudice, discrimination, persecution, and genocide? How may we learn from the past to create an ethical and civil presence, and design a future that respects people everywhere?

Below are a few definitions to provide you with the terms and concepts we will be using during our class activities.

The following terms will be used throughout the lesson:

- *Victim* - one who has been the target of negative actions
- *Perpetrator* - one who takes negative action against another
- *Bystander* - one who sees unacceptable behavior but does nothing to stop it
- *Upstander* - one who chooses to take positive action in the face of injustice in society or in situations where individuals need assistance
- *Bullying* - repeated harmful acts against a person involves taunts, property destruction, exclusion, rumors, etc.

The following concepts will be addressed:

- Genocide
- Violence and Hate Crimes
- Scapegoating
- Discrimination
- Stereotyping and Prejudice

I hope that you will take this opportunity to become more involved with your child's studies, and that it will result in meaningful discussions.

Thank you for your interest and your support.

Sincerely,