

Social Learning and Positive Behavioral Supports are integral to CHIME Schwarzenegger Community School as necessary components of establishing a strong social community among the students, parents, and professionals. It is when students feel safe, welcome and individually important to the community that they are able to operate at their maximum potential. Ironically, it is this sense of well-being that CHIME Institute's Schwarzenegger Community School they have as individuals that also allows them to actively participate in the life of the school community, seeing themselves as part of something larger. Knowing that they belong, students bring unique capabilities to school and belonging gives them a sense of self, a sense of location, a sense of security, and a healthy sense of responsibility to the larger group. Social skills instruction is embedded in all areas of the curriculum, with the goal of helping students to understand themselves as members of a community, to develop respect for others, to appreciate diversity in all its forms within the community, to express their ideas with assurance, and to solve problems with others through positive, honest and direct interaction with them. To help establish a sense of community there are regular occasions for students to share their work with each other and with the community at large. Students demonstrate their learning and reflections on their learning throughout the grades through student presentations of learning and project exhibitions.. In addition, middle grades students gain a sense of community both in their classrooms through the projects that they work on together and in their advisory period when they gather together with a small group of peers to discussion common issues and concerns, and receive social and academic support.

HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

CHIME Institute's Schwarzenegger Community School is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from harassment in any form. Harassment of any student by any other student, or employee, is illegal according to Civil Code (California Educational Code 212.5) and is strictly prohibited. The school will treat allegations of harassment seriously and will review and investigate such allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

A charge of harassment shall not, in and of itself, create the presumption of wrongdoing. However, substantiated acts of harassment will result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or dismissal. Students found to have filed false or frivolous charges will also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Harassment occurs when an individual is subjected to treatment, or a school environment, which is hostile or intimidating based on the individual's sex, gender, gender expression, age, marital status, disability, race, religion, creed, color, or national origin.

Harassment can occur any time during school or during school-related activities. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. Conduct him or herself in a manner which contributes to a positive school environment.
2. Avoid any activity that may be considered discriminatory, intimidating, or harassing.
3. Consider immediately informing anyone harassing him or her that the behavior is offensive and unwelcome.
4. Report all incidents of discrimination or harassment to the administration.
5. Immediately discontinue conduct when informed that it is discriminatory, intimidating, harassing, or unwelcome.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

Verbal Harassment

Derogatory comments and jokes; threatening words spoken to another person.

Physical Harassment

Unwanted physical touching, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking movements, or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement.

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

CHIME prohibits discrimination and harassment based on an individual's sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition); ethnicity (such as race, color, national origin, and ancestry); religion (including religious accommodation); disability (mental or physical disability or reasonable accommodation); age; marital status; or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance, or regulation. Harassment based on any of the above-protected categories is a form of unlawful discrimination and will not be tolerated by CHIME. Harassment is intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student or employee that creates a hostile environment and that can result in disciplinary action against the offending student or employee. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal remarks and name-calling, graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening or humiliating.

This nondiscrimination policy covers admission or access to, or treatment or employment in the administration of any of its employment, educational programs, admissions policies, athletics, recreational, and other school-administered programs. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission to or participation in programs or activities.

The Principal is designated to handle all inquiries or complaints regarding its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities related to discrimination or harassment based on a student's sex (Title IX); sexual orientation or gender identity (Title 5, CCR, §4910); race, color, or national origin (Title VI); or mental or physical disability (Section 504).

BULLYING

CHIME is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment and will not tolerate bullying or any behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, employees, or any other persons within the school's jurisdiction; and will not tolerate retaliation in any form when bullying has been reported.

Bullying is defined as aggressive behavior that involves an imbalance of real or perceived physical or psychological power among those involved. Typically, the behavior is repeated over time and includes the use of hurtful words or acts.

Bullying behaviors may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Verbal: Hurtful name-calling, teasing, gossiping, making threats, making rude noises, or spreading hurtful rumors.
- Nonverbal: Posturing, making gang signs, leering, staring, stalking, destroying property, using graffiti or graphic images, or exhibiting inappropriate and/or threatening gestures or actions.

- Physical: Hitting, punching, pushing, shoving, poking, kicking, tripping, strangling, hair pulling, fighting, beating, biting, spitting, or destroying property.
- Emotional (Psychological): Rejecting, terrorizing, extorting, defaming, intimidating, humiliating, blackmailing, manipulating friendships, isolating, ostracizing, using peer pressure, or rating or ranking personal characteristics.
- Cyber bullying: Sending insulting or threatening messages or pictures by phone, email, websites or any other electronic or written communication.
- Creating unauthorized Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, or Twitter accounts

Administrators, staff, and parents are responsible for creating an environment where the school community understands that bullying behavior is inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Students must also take responsibility for helping to create a safe environment:

- Treat everyone with respect. Be sensitive as to how others might perceive your actions or words.
- Do not engage in or contribute to bullying behaviors, actions, or words. (Be an Upstander, not a Bystander)
- Report bullying behavior to a trusted adult.
- Never engage in retaliatory behavior or ask, encourage, or consent to anyone's taking retaliatory action on your behalf.

CHIME Bullying Procedures

Reports of bullying can be made by any individual in the CHIME community – parents, students, or staff. Individuals are encouraged to make reports to an administrator as soon as possible so that a proper investigation of the bullying behavior can occur. Reports can be made in person or via email to any administrator at the school. The administrator will then appoint the appropriate person to conduct the investigation or conduct the investigation himself or herself.

Reports of bullying will be investigated thoroughly by administration or their appropriate staff designee and a determination concerning the nature and extent of bullying will be made.

Students who are found to have engaged in bullying will be subject to both intervention plans as well as school consequences. Intervention plans may include (but are not limited to) restricted free time, additional adult supervision, prescribed schedules of activities, counseling sessions, peer mediation, and participation in bullying diversion curriculum. Consequences may include (but are not limited to) loss of school privileges, in-school suspension, or out of school suspension.

(If the parents feel that a suspension is not justified, they may appeal the principal's decision. A Suspension Appeal Form should be requested. The appeal may only be submitted from the day of suspension up to five school days following the day of the student's suspension.)

All parties involved and their parents will be informed to the greatest extent appropriate of the outcomes of the bullying investigations, the plans/consequences put in place as a result of the investigation, and future changes to the specified plans when they occur. It is the expectation of the CHIME school community that parents will cooperate, support, and partner with the school during the investigation process and the implementation of intervention and consequences. The success of each child and the promotion of a healthy school climate relies on the support and partnership of parents and families.

Students who continue to engage in bullying behavior despite intervention and/or consequences may be subject to expulsion. School administration will use appropriate discretion in all such cases and refer expulsion cases to a disciplinary committee. The disciplinary committee will hear the expulsion referral, make a determination based on the facts of the matter, and render a recommendation to the CHIME school board. This procedure follows the guidelines set forth in CHIME's charter but does not in any way subordinate any appropriate codes and laws applicable to charter schools in state and federal law which govern the expulsion of students.