KARA LEVENDUSKI
PRINCIPAL

AMY STINO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM

HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 166
COLUMBIA, CT 06237

September 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

School safety and positive school climate is an important aspects of our school life. The Columbia Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

“Bullying” is defined as a “direct or indirect act that is severe, persistent, and pervasive” by one or more individuals of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another individual or a physical act or gesture by one or more individuals directed at another individual which:

1. Causes physical or emotional harm to or damage to his or her property,
2. Places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm
3. Infringes on the rights or opportunities of an individual at school

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or physical, mental, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

In accordance with state law and the Board’s Safe School Climate Plan, the Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school related activity, function or program, whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Board of Education.

Furthermore, the Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying.

1. Creates a hostile environment at school for the victim,
2. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school, or
3. Substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

If you suspect that bullying has occurred, students and/or parents may file written complaints concerning suspected bullying behavior. Students shall also be permitted to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees. Any report of suspected bullying behavior will be promptly reviewed. Bullying behavior is strictly prohibited, and students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school.

We strive to create a safe, welcoming, and positive school climate at Horace W. Porter School. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 860-228-9493, ext. 167.

Regards,

Amy Stino

Amy Stino
Assistant Principal/Safe School Climate Specialist