

Life on the School Bus

Purpose: Encourage kids to have the courage to be *defenders* when they see aggressive behaviors among peers, like on the school bus.

Because bus drivers are often the only adult on the bus and must obviously focus their attention on safe driving, many bus-related bullying incidents aren't addressed promptly or even at all. This is why it is so important for students to become defenders by being the eyes and ears for bullying type behaviors.

To do:

1. Before showing the clip, ask students what a typical day on the bus looks like. Who do they sit with? Do they know their bus driver's name? What types of things do students do while on the bus (listen to music, talk with friends, etc...) What are things they like about riding the bus?
2. Show the video clip depicting a true story of a boy named Alex Libby (from the 2011 documentary "Bully").
3. Facilitate a group discussion, either as a whole class or divide class into small groups, which allows students to talk about their experiences riding the bus. Below is a list of possible questions to lead the discussion.

Questions:

1. What was most shocking/surprising about the video of Alex Libby's experience riding the bus?
2. Were there *defenders* on his bus? Were there *bystanders*? What did the *defenders/bystanders* do?
3. If you were on Alex's bus, what would you do to help him in some of those situations?
4. What could you say to the kids picking on Alex?
5. Who could you go to if you witnessed behaviors like you saw on the video happen on your bus?
6. If Alex were a student at Waldon, what could you say to Alex if you witnessed these things happening?
7. Alex said that he was afraid to get picked on if he showed who he really was. Do you know of anybody afraid to be themselves for fear of being picked on?
8. Are there things that need to be improved on your bus in terms of how students treat one another?
9. Are there positive things happening on your bus in terms of how students treat one another that you can share with the class?

*If students discuss in small groups, please reserve some time to have each group report out some of their responses to the whole class.

*When students give suggestions for improvements on their bus, either jot some notes down or have a student record responses and place those in Mrs. Perry's mailbox.