

How Students Can Prevent Discrimination at MHS

- Abby Schalck

Team Harmony is a club at the high school that has been around for many years now; however, many students do not know what it is. In Team Harmony students meet as a club to promote a harmonious school climate. As a club, we work against bullying and discrimination at Marblehead High School. In order to prevent discrimination and bullying in our school, it is first important to understand what these things are and why they happen.

An image that usually comes to mind when one hears the word 'bullying' might be of a student pushing a smaller classmate up against some lockers, or taking their lunch money. Although this is considered bullying, it's important for students and teachers to know that bullying behaviors can be much more complex than these stereotypes.

Although the definition of bullying varies from person to person, a universal rule to define bullying would be any behavior towards another that hurts, humiliates, or harms another person physically or emotionally. While the physical harm of another can be easier to spot around school, it is often the emotional harm through bullying that does the most damage to a person.

Unfortunately, even though bullying in schools throughout this country is not tolerated by federal law, many cases of bullying and discrimination slip through the cracks. This is why it is important to educate students on how to prevent discrimination and bullying at Marblehead High School.

Team Harmony works hard to diminish the amount of bullying in our school, and helps bring in powerful speakers to help further impact anti-discrimination beliefs in schools. For example, Calvin Terrell is a speaker, educator, and community builder who came to Marblehead High School this September and made a large impact on the students. It is important that the values that Calvin Terrell addressed continue throughout the year. Unfortunately, some of the students who were moved by Terrell have already gone back to their discriminatory habits.

This is why students should join Team Harmony, so that they can be reminded of how to prevent discrimination throughout the school year. If you are a student who would like to join Team Harmony, you can come to the club meetings on Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in Room A103. For additional information, feel free to contact the Faculty Advisors Meredith Reardon, reardon.meredith@marbleheadschoools.org, and Candice Sliney, sliney.candice@marbleheadschoools.org.