

## Grant to help curb bullying

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Bogan Elementary students are slated to get a lesson in conflict resolution, courtesy of the Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation.

The school recently received a \$58,125 grant from the foundation to cover the implementation costs of an anti-bullying program for the next three years. Principal Dee Lancaster said the money will be used to implement **PeaceBuilders**, a California-based program aimed at curbing bullying while providing students with character-building exercises.

**PeaceBuilders** closely mirrors the sort of things we're already doing at Bogan," Lancaster said. "Our students and parents feel very safe in the school. We need to continue that, putting the onus on the students to be responsible for their actions."

Lancaster was awarded \$20,000 earlier this year to research various school climate programs and, according to Talawanda spokeswoman Holli Morrish, worked diligently to secure funding for the **PeaceBuilders** program.

"Dee has been pretty successful in going through the planning phase," Morrish said. "She had to resubmit an actual implementation grant for the total plan she developed along with her team. This recent money is an award for the implementation of those plans."

Lancaster said the overarching goal of the program is to build a positive school environment, with students themselves playing a crucial role in the process.

With activities intended to be both student-oriented and student-led, Lancaster expects everyone involved in the program to be thoroughly engaged. She said the new activities should coincide perfectly with Bogan's existing leadership activities.

As for Lancaster, who is leaving Bogan to serve as principal at Talawanda Middle School, the recent news of the grant has been somewhat bittersweet.

"... I wish I could be here to help them spearhead this process," she said. "I may try to work with the people at **PeaceBuilders** to explore bringing elements of this program along with me, as there are no additional grants available right now because of the economy."

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