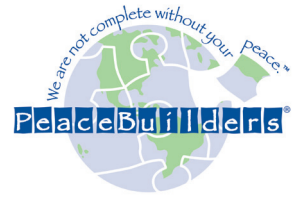


# PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



## case study – bullying prevention

### St. Dominic School Makes PeaceBuilding—Not Bullying—“Cool”

#### Problem:

In 1997, the staff at St. Dominic School in Springfield, Ken. noticed frequent incidents of bullying, aggressive behavior and name-calling among students were detracting from the safe and welcoming environment they strived to create. With students in grades ranging from first through eighth, the school had a particular problem with older children using aggressive, intimidating behavior as a way to be “cool.”

#### Solution:

Teachers and staff were trained by PeaceBuilders professionals to diffuse incidents of bullying and help children resolve conflicts peacefully. By developing a Peace Council of 15 students representing grades sixth through eighth, older children are now being given leadership roles and are encouraged to make peaceful, not violent, behavior “cool” for their peers and younger students.

#### Results:

School principal Pamela Bruenig says that since St. Dominic adopted the PeaceBuilders program, office referrals are down significantly compared to previous years. In addition, a recent Long Range Plan survey found that instead of feeling threatened or intimidated, the vast majority of students at St. Dominic feel safe and welcome there. As a result, the school's attendance rate is up to 97 percent—far above the national average. Older children, who were once the school's biggest problem, are now serving as role models for younger children, with 45 sixth through eighth graders vying to fill 15 coveted spots on the school's Peace Council.

#### results:

- Office referrals for bullying significantly down.
- Attendance increased to 97%.
- Long Range Plan survey showed vast majority of students feel welcome and safe.
- Teen age students eagerly accept leadership roles.

*“You might think the PeaceBuilders program would be a hard sell to older children striving to be ‘cool.’ But our sixth through eighth graders are as involved and excited as I ever dreamed they would be. The program really works.”*

#### About PeaceBuilders:

PeaceBuilders is the science-based, research-validated character education and violence prevention youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. It is a culture/curriculum hybrid program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community. Our experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

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