

To: Parents and Guardians

From: Anti-Bullying Month and the STOPit App

October is recognized nationally as Anti-Bullying Month, and we at are taking this opportunity to reiterate our unwavering commitment to creating and maintaining a bully-free environment for our whole school community.

While we will always encourage students and parents to directly approach school employees with bullying concerns, we recognize that sometimes there is apprehension in doing so. **That's where the STOPit app comes in.**

The STOPit app is an anonymous reporting tool designed to deter and promptly address instances of bullying, school violence, self-harm, and inappropriate behaviors. Members of our school community can speak up when they have a concern, without the stigma or fear of retaliation.

With the STOPit app, anyone from our school community can:

- Report acts of bullying without revealing their identity.
- Attach photo or video evidence.
- Engage in private, two-way communication with school leaders, ensuring we have all the details to address and resolve the matter efficiently.

By providing the STOPit app to everyone in our school community, we aim to ensure that no incident goes unreported. We believe that this app complements our existing mechanisms and helps us further ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students.

We urge all parents and guardians to download the STOPit app and discuss it with your children. The STOPit app is available on <u>Google Play Store</u> and <u>Apple App Store</u>.

We stand firmly against bullying in all its forms, and with tools like the STOPit app, we are taking another step towards a bully-free environment. You can go to the Taos Municipal schools web site to access the app at https://taosschools.org

Marcos J. Herrera

Taos Municipal School District
Director of Security and school safety