



**(Reviewed by Counselors and Principal) Approved**

## **KENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Assembly Curriculum – October 9, 2025

**Grades 6, 7, and 8**

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### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW (All Grades)**

This assembly program is designed to foster empathy, challenge harmful behaviors, and empower students to lead with kindness, truth, and accountability. Each grade-level session includes:

Two short films

- A guided discussion
- A guest speaker segment (or myself)
- An interactive activity (“Whisper Chain”)
- A closing message reinforcing responsible communication

The curriculum below outlines the **grade-specific pacing, manuscript talking points, and learning goals** for each session.

#### **Video Description for Middle Schoolers**

##### **1. What Is Bullying? for Kids | Twinkl USA**

A clear, age-appropriate animated explainer introducing physical, verbal, emotional, and cyberbullying.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffzlhWoi5ac>

**Audience:** Grades 6–8 **Purpose:** To help students recognize bullying, understand its impact, and learn how to respond with empathy and courage.

**Summary:** This short video explains what bullying truly is, beyond just teasing or drama. It explains the four main types of bullying: physical, verbal, social, and cyberbullying. Through simple language and relatable examples, it illustrates how bullying can harm others and how students can take action to prevent it. Whether it's standing up for someone, reporting a problem, or choosing kindness over gossip, the video encourages every student to be a changemaker.

**Why It Matters:** Middle school is a pivotal time when friendships shift, social pressure intensifies, and rumors can spread rapidly. This video reminds students that they have the power to make their school a safer and more respectful place, just by speaking up and supporting one another.

## 2. Stacey's Story: When Rumors Escalate

A dramatized short film illustrating how gossip spreads and impacts friendships, emphasizing the real consequences of rumor-spreading.

<https://youtu.be/uVKb3Pu7Rd8?si=yqNT1vGeO-MwqscZ>

**Audience:** Grades 6–8 **Theme:** Gossip, friendship, and the power of truth

**Summary:** Stacey is a regular middle school student who suddenly finds herself at the center of a rumor. At first, it seems like a small misunderstanding, but as the story unfolds, we see how quickly gossip spreads and how deeply it can hurt. Friends start acting differently, whispers follow her in the hallway, and Stacey begins to feel isolated and confused. The video shows how even one false message can change someone's entire day or life. But Stacey doesn't stay silent. With courage and support, she speaks up, clears the air, and helps others understand the importance of going straight to the source instead of passing things on. The story ends with a powerful reminder: **"If you didn't hear it from the source, don't pass it on."**

**Gossip Game:** *Whisper Chain – Moderate Challenge*

### INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY (All Grades)

#### "Whisper Chain" Demonstration

A visual demonstration showing how quickly and dramatically a message changes when passed from person to person. **Key message:** *"If you didn't hear it from the source, don't pass it on."*



## **GRADE 6 | ASSEMBLY CURRICULUM**

### **Learning Focus:**

Understanding what bullying is, how it feels, and how to respond safely.

### **Timeline (45–50 minutes)**

#### **0:00–0:03 – Welcome & Introduction**

- Brief greeting
- Purpose of the assembly
- “Today we’re learning how our words and actions impact others.”

#### **0:03–0:10 – Film #1: What Is Bullying?**

- Students watch the animated explainer.

#### **0:10–0:15 – Guided Discussion** Talking points:

- “What types of bullying did you notice?”
- “How do you think someone feels when they’re treated that way?”
- “What can you do if you see bullying happening?”

#### **0:15–0:22 – Film #2: Stacey’s Story**

- Students watch the dramatized rumor-spreading film.

#### **0:22–0:28 – Whisper Chain Activity**

- Demonstrate message distortion.
- Reinforce: “If you didn’t hear it from the source, don’t pass it on.”

#### **0:28–0:40 – Speaker Segment (You)** Manuscript-style talking points:

- “Rumors hurt even when they’re small.”
- “You have power in your voice — use it to help, not harm.”
- “Being kind doesn’t make you weak; it makes you a leader.”

**0:40–0:45 – Closing Message**

- Review key points
- Encourage kindness and truth-telling
- Thank you to the students and staff



## **GRADE 7 | ASSEMBLY CURRICULUM**

### **Learning Focus:**

Recognizing harmful communication patterns and understanding social responsibility.

### **Timeline (45–50 minutes)**

#### **0:00–0:03 – Welcome & Purpose**

- “Today we’re talking about choices — and how they shape your reputation.”

#### **0:03–0:10 – Film #1: What Is Bullying?**

- Students watch the explainer.

#### **0:10–0:15 – Discussion Talking points:**

- “What does bullying look like in 7th grade?”
- “How does online behavior make things worse?”
- “What role does the bystander play?”

#### **0:15–0:22 – Film #2: Stacey’s Story**

- Students watch the rumor-spreading film.

#### **0:22–0:28 – Whisper Chain Activity**

- Emphasize: “Rumors grow because someone chooses to repeat them.”

#### **0:28–0:40 – Speaker Segment (You) Manuscript-style talking points:**

- “Your voice carries weight — use it wisely.”
- “You don’t have to participate in drama to be respected.”
- “Leaders don’t repeat what they don’t know is true.”

### **0:40–0:45 – Closing Message**

- Reinforce responsibility
- Encourage students to be truth-keepers
- Thank you to the students and staff



## **GRADE 8 | ASSEMBLY CURRICULUM**

### **Learning Focus:**

Leadership, accountability, and preparing for high school communication challenges.

### **Timeline (45–50 minutes)**

#### **0:00–0:03 – Welcome & Leadership Message**

- “Eighth grade sets the tone for who you’ll be in high school.”

#### **0:03–0:10 – Film #1: What Is Bullying?**

- Students watch the explainer.

#### **0:10–0:15 – Discussion Talking points:**

- “How does bullying shift as you get older?”
- “What does leadership look like in conflict?”
- “How do rumors damage your future reputation?”

#### **0:15–0:22 – Film #2: Stacey’s Story**

- Students watch the dramatized film.

#### **0:22–0:28 – Whisper Chain Activity**

- Emphasize: “Your reputation is built on the words you choose to repeat.”

#### **0:28–0:40 – Speaker Segment (You) Manuscript-style talking points:**

- “High school will challenge your character — start practicing leadership now.”

- “You don’t have to follow the crowd to be respected.”
- “Integrity means choosing truth even when it’s inconvenient.”

**0:40–0:45 – Closing Message**

- Encourage leadership
- Reinforce accountability
- Thank you to the students and staff