

# MEAN BEHAVIOR



SPARTA AREA  
SCHOOLS



Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying

Behavior Examples

Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice). Unlike rudeness, “mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Often, mean behavior in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down.”

Examples: “Are you seriously wearing that sweater again? Didn’t you just wear it, like, last week? Get a life.” “You are so fat/ugly/stupid.” “I hate you!”

## How to respond to mean behavior?

### SCHOOL RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- Success Center/Safe Room support
- Group/Lunch Bunch meetings
- Kids Hope Mentors
- Student support with counseling staff
- Staff conference with student and/or parents
- High school mentors

## HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT:

### Offer strategies

- Advocate for yourself
- Tell them to stop, walk away, and ignore
- If they follow or don’t stop, raise your hand or find an adult

### Seek supports

- A peer/lunch group
- Talk with staff member
- Email the teacher or school counselor

If you would like to speak to one of our student support staff regarding any of this information or if you have other questions/concerns, please [contact](#) us.