

Bullying pressures students to their breaking points

She walks through the halls everyday to the sound of hateful comments and the laughter that follows. Not a soul stands up for the girl, who hasn't done a thing to anyone. What they don't know is every night she cries herself to sleep, their words echoing through her dreams.

This scenario is repeated in many different forms, day after day, in schools all over the country. Eighty-seven percent of school shootings were said to be motivated as an attempt at revenge to those who have hurt them. Just recently, there was a school shooting in Chardon, Ohio.

Seventeen year-old T.J. Lane opened fire in his school cafeteria. His shots fired injured five students, resulting in three deaths. His motive? Being bullied. Peers say that Lane never fit into specific cliques, he seemed to keep quiet and mind his own business. Although, sometimes depressed, he did not come off as one capable of murder. Bullying could drive people to desperate measures.

Over half of teens have been bullied online. Cyberbullying is a growing problem because teenagers have the technology available right at their fingertips. Through texting and social networks like Facebook, teens will say things they would not normally. The internet also

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offers the power of anonymity. Teens don't realize that things they say online can affect the getting into college and acquiring a job.

As seen in the ABC Family original movie "Cyberbully," teens can drive one another to the point of suicide. Bullying can make the victim experience depression and low self-esteem. This results in poor grades, retaliation to the harasser, and distance from other students.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens. Bully victims are two to nine more times likely to consider suicide. If you see anyone being bullied and notice them showing signs of depression, talk to them or contact a trusted adult immediately. Let them know they are cared for. Tell them of suicide hotlines, or in a less severe case, recommend them to a school counselor.

So what we all need to do is come together and work on is bully prevention. Talk to administrators at your school about the bully policy that is in place. If we witness someone getting bullied or harassed, we aren't going to stand by and watch. Bullying becomes a bigger problem everyday and it needs to stop. If we work together, school can become more bearable. Speak up for those too beaten down to try.

What is your experience with bullying?



[CHRISELLA DANIEL
Freshman]

“Bullying makes me want to help, and I feel bad for them.”



[JORDANN DAKIN
Sophomore]

“I've been cyberbullied and felt how bad it hurts.”



[MARGO BECHT
Junior]

“It hurts me to see others bullied. It's not right.”



[HALLIE MARTIN
Senior]

“It makes me want to do something about it.”



[ANTHONY PRICE
Freshman]

“It makes me feel bad because I know how the person feels.”