

**Dear Participant:**

Hello and welcome to the Bully Proof Classroom.

**You are in The School and Classroom Climate Module.**

Kudos to you for choosing to participate in the Bully Proof Classroom! You are now a member of a dynamic national and international movement dedicated to extinguishing bullying. We have been studying the bullying/victimization dynamic since Columbine (1998) and before. Relying on our own personal experiences and over sixty years of combined service in public education, we recognize that bullying is more than the stereotypical schoolyard variety. It is a complex dynamic that involves psychological and sociological issues which require collaboration from scholars, schools, teachers, and most important, parents.

Our mission is to tap into the best of us and, like Mothers against Drunk Drivers, and to work relentlessly to increase awareness of the problem, create an honest, genuine national conversation, which in time will result in safe learning environments.

Over the past twenty years, we have studied bullying along with scores of scholars who have published their findings on the issue of peer victimization, aggression, and bullying. There are dozens of anti bullying organizations, hundreds of websites, and a mountain of professional literature intended to provide solutions to bullying/victimization. Despite all these good intentions, there is a lack of collaboration among the players including administrators, teachers, and parents. The temperature on bullying is not cooling off and part of the reason is the gap between theory and practice.

The Bully Proof Classroom hopes to inspire all participants, especially teachers, by offering our real life experiences with science and provide some practical solutions to this costly issue. Earnest Hemmingway wrote, “All things truly wicked begins with an innocence.” The majority of bullying/victimization behavior is learned. It is clear that adults need to evaluate their own attitudes and behaviors and this course will provide opportunities for all involved to reflect and develop practical solutions.

## Netiquette –

Speaking of attitude and behavior, we want to insure a safe on line community in this class. Remember the following when posting and responding on line.

- Use capitals sparingly. Posting in all capital letters appears like a person is shouting.
- Disagree with the right attitude. Absolutely disagree and respectfully offer another viewpoint, fact, or clarification and do it to honor yourself and everyone in the class.
- Keep pace with the class. Your insights and class contributions make the class a success.

All the Best,

James H. Burns