



Around the Round!

Round Elementary School
11550 Hibner Rd, Hartland, MI 48353
<http://round.hartlandschools.us>
Phone: 810-626-2800 Fax: 810-626-2801

Absence Line: 810-626-2805
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:15 pm

February 2026

Important Dates

February

- 1st** **New Kindergarten Enrollment Opens.**
Kindergarten
5th **PTO Meeting 7pm**
6th -9th **Winter Break**
20th **Talent Show**
26th **Rollerama**

March

- 3rd** **PTO 4pm Night**
6th **Suessabration**
Author Visit: Phil Stead
16th **Board of Education Mtg**
30th **Spring Break**
4/6 **School Resumes**

School Hours

Monday -Thursday
8:50 – 3:50pm

Fridays

Early Release
8:50 – 2:50pm

Students may enter at 8:45am

Brrrrr! It's cold outside!

Please remember to send your child with an extra set of clothes. An extra set of gloves is recommended as well. Most days it is very wet outside and our playground is often muddy. We don't want to disrupt your day for dry/clean clothes.

Hartland Consolidated Schools is now accepting pre-enrollment for kindergarten students for the 2026-2027 school year. Enrollment packets can be found at www.hartlandschools.us.

Thanks to your support and our amazing PTO we had several amazing experiences including: Supes, Native American Presentations, Castaway Café, Hartland Theater, and the Glow Dance. We appreciate your support!

We will be administering the MSTEP assessment in 3rd and 4th grade during the month of May. Please try to avoid vacations during this important time.

We are committed to making our school warm and welcoming for all students. Please see the article on page 2 regarding Mean, Rude and Bullying behavior. Reporting to an adult when someone hurts you mentally or physically is very important it is NOT considered tattling. Name calling, leaving students out, and hurting people is never acceptable. It is important to stress that we don't talk about things that can't be changed in a minute. Examples: personal items, looks, etc. We appreciate your support. Your conversations with your children are critical factor in our success.

Stay Warm,
Mrs. Dotty Hottum

Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying: Defining the Differences

Signe Whitson Become a fan

Author: Child and adolescent therapist

Posted: 11/26/2012 8:29 pm EST Updated: 08/27/2014 10:59 am EDT

A few weeks ago, I had the terrific fortune of getting to present some of the bullying prevention work that I do to a group of children at a local bookstore. As if interacting with smiling, exuberant young people was not gift enough, a reporter also attended the event and wrote a lovely article about my book and the work I do with kids, parents, educators and youth care professionals. All in all, it was dream publicity and since then, has sparked many conversations with people in my town who saw my photo in the newspaper and immediately related to the examples of bullying that were discussed.

I have been brought to tears more than once since the article ran, while listening to parents share their feelings of outrage and helplessness over their kids' experiences with bullying in school. One gifted but socially awkward middle school student blew me away with his articulate, poised, yet searingly painful accounts of relentless physical and verbal bullying on his school bus. An elementary school aged girl described how she had to learn to shed her Australian accent within a month of entering U.S. schools because of how she was shunned by her classmates. The commonness of it all routinely astounds me with every new account; the pervasive cruelty makes my jaw drop every time.

It is important for me to begin this article by establishing that without doubt, many of the stories of bullying that are shared with me are horrifying and some are unspeakably cruel. But now, I also want to be honest and share that some of the stories are... well... really not so bad.

Take this story recently shared with me by an acquaintance who read about my professional work: "Signe, I saw your picture in the paper last week. Congratulations! I didn't know you worked with bullied students. It's so important that you do -- things have gotten so bad! Last week, my daughter was bullied really badly after school! She was getting off of her bus when this kid from our neighborhood threw a fistful of leaves right in her face! When she got home, she still had leaves in the hood of her coat. It's just awful! I don't know what to do about these bullies."

"Was she very upset when she got home?" I empathized.

"No. She just brushed the leaves off and told me they were having fun together," she said.

"Oh," I answered knowingly, aware that oftentimes kids try to downplay victimization by bullies from their parents, due to the embarrassment and shame they feel. "Did you get the sense she was covering for the boy?"

"No, no. She really seemed to think it was fun. She said that she threw leaves back at him, which I told her NEVER to do again! The nerve of those kids."

"Those 'kids,' I clarified. "Was it just the one boy throwing leaves or were there a bunch of kids all ganging up on her?"

"No, it was just this one boy that lives about a block from us," she assured me.

"Is he usually mean to her? Has he bothered her after school before?" I asked, eager at this point to figure out what the bullying issue was.

"No. I don't think so at least. That was the first time she ever said anything about him. It was definitely the first time that I noticed the leaves all over her coat. But it better be the last time! I won't stand for her being bullied by that kid. Next time, I am going to make sure the Principal knows what is going on after school lets out!"

While I always want to be careful not to minimize anyone's experience (it's the social worker in me!) and a part of me suspects that the sharing of this particular story may have been simply this parent's spontaneous way of making conversation with me in a store aisle, I hear these "alarming" (read: benign) stories often enough to conclude that there is a real need to draw a distinction between behavior that is rude, behavior that is mean and behavior that is characteristic of bullying. I first heard bestselling children's author, Trudy Ludwig, talk about these distinguishing terms and, finding them so helpful, have gone on to use them as follows:

Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.

A particular relative of mine (whose name it would be rude of me to mention) often looks my curly red hair up and down before inquiring in a sweet tone, "Have you ever thought about coloring your hair?" or "I think you look so much more sophisticated when you straighten your hair, Signe." This doting family member thinks she is helping me. The rest of the people in the room cringe at her boldness and I am left to wonder if being a brunette would suit me. Her comments can sting, but remembering that they come from a place of love -- in her mind -- helps me to remember what to do with the advice...

From kids, rudeness might look more like burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up pile of leaves in someone's face. On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.

Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).

The main distinction between "rude" and "mean" behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or deprecate someone. Kids are mean to each other when they criticize clothing, appearance, intelligence, coolness or just about anything else they can find to denigrate. Meanness also sounds like words spoken in anger -- impulsive cruelty that is often regretted in short order. Very 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. Commonly, meanness in kids sounds an awful lot like:

- "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/gay."
- "I hate you!"

Make no mistake; mean behaviors can wound deeply and adults can make a huge difference in the lives of young people when they hold kids accountable for being mean. Yet, meanness is different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.

Bullying = Intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power.

Experts agree that bullying entails three key elements: an intent to harm, a power imbalance and repeated acts or threats of aggressive behavior. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse - even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.

Bullying may be physical, verbal, and relational and/or carried out via technology:

- Physical aggression was once the gold standard of bullying-- the "sticks and stones" that made adults in charge stand up and take notice. This kind of bullying includes hitting, punching, kicking, spitting, tripping, hair pulling, slamming a child into a locker and a range of other behaviors that involve physical aggression.
- Verbal aggression is what our parents used to advise us to "just ignore." We now know that despite the old adage, words and threats can, indeed, hurt and can even cause profound, lasting harm.
- Relational aggression is a form of bullying in which kids use their friendship--or the threat of taking their friendship away--to hurt someone. Social exclusion, shunning, hazing, and rumor spreading are all forms of this pervasive type of bullying that can be especially beguiling and crushing to kids.
- Cyberbullying is a specific form of bullying that involves technology. According to Hinduja and Patchin of the Cyberbullying Research Center, it is the "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices." Notably, the likelihood of repeated harm is especially high with cyberbullying because electronic messages can be accessed by multiple parties, resulting in repeated exposure and repeated harm.

So, why is it so important to make the distinction between rude, mean and bullying? Can't I just let parents share with me stories about their kids? Here's the thing; in our culture of 24/7 news cycles and social media sound bytes, we have a better opportunity than ever before to bring attention to important issues. In the last few years, Americans have collectively paid attention to the issue of bullying like never before; millions of school children have been given a voice, 49 states in the U.S. have passed anti-bullying legislation, and thousands of adults have been trained in important strategies to keep kids safe and dignified in schools and communities. These are significant achievements.

At the same time, however, I have already begun to see that gratuitous references to bullying are creating a bit of a "little boy who cried wolf" phenomena. In other words, if kids and parents improperly classify rudeness and mean behavior as bullying -- whether to simply make conversation or to bring attention to their short-term discomfort -- we all run the risk of becoming so sick and tired of hearing the word that this actual life-and-death issue among young people loses its urgency as quickly as it rose to prominence.

It is important to distinguish between rude, mean and bullying so that teachers, school administrators, police, youth workers, parents and kids all know what to pay attention to and when to intervene. As we have heard too often in the news, a child's future may depend on a nonjaded adult's ability to discern between rudeness at the bus stop and life-altering bullying.

Signe Whitson is a licensed therapist, national educator on bullying, and author of three books including *Friendship & Other Weapons: Group Activities to Help Young Girls Cope with Bullying*. For more information or workshop inquiries, please visit www.signewhitson.com

PTO

The Round Elementary PTO plays a vital role in the education of our students. We feel extremely fortunate to have a caring, energetic group of parents that volunteer their time and efforts to give our students the best experience possible. It is an exciting time to be a volunteer in the school. Please consider volunteering for the PTO.



This is just a friendly reminder from your District School Nurse, as we enter the cold and flu season, please be considerate of our District Policies on preventing communicable diseases/viruses. When a fever is present, the virus is at its most contagious state. Please be mindful, before sending your child to school, they must be fever free for 24 hours **without Tylenol or Motrin**. They should **NOT** have vomited, nor had diarrhea for 24 hrs. This is to help prevent the illness from being spread among other children.

It is very important that all over the counter medications are given to the office staff to ensure the safety of our students.

Looking to Support Your Reader at Home!

Check out these videos from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project!

Kindergarten-2nd Grades-some tips for supporting your child to complete their reading homework independently:
[How to Help Your Child finish their reading homework](#)

3rd-5th Grades-tips for talking to your child about their reading in ways that reinforce comprehension, while preventing the parent from becoming the teacher: [How to Have Natural Conversations with Your Kids about Books](#)

We Love our New Benches thank you PTO and Families!



Safety in the Parking Lot!



Many times at Pick-Up parents are parked in the “kiss and go” lane. Please park in an available parking spot or on the grass when possible. It is very hard to keep our students safe when cars are trying to pass those parked in the “kiss and go” lane.

Please remember to save the parking spaces labeled ‘handicapped’ for those with the appropriate legal designation. Thank you for your on going support and cooperation.

Bundle Up! It's Cold Outside!



Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with warm coats, snow pants, hats, gloves and boots. Children go outside for recess 3 times a day for fresh air, frequent breaks and exercise.

The district cold weather policy is as follows:

- Wind chill 15 degrees or above = regular outdoor recess
- Wind chill between 1 and 15 degrees = a short recess 5 to 15 minutes long
- Wind chill below 0 degrees = inside recess

Please be aware that children need a doctor's note to stay in for recess.

Around the Round

The first grade “in house” animal encounter was Amazing!



We Need Your Help to earn money for our school programs.

Please bring your recyclable papers to our Green & Yellow Paper Retriever® Bin.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Shopping Catalogs
- Mail
- School Papers
- Office Papers
- Envelopes

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- **NO** Cardboard
- **NO** Cereal/Soda Cartons
- **NO** Food wrap/containers
- **NO** Tissue Products
- **NO** Phone Books
- **NO** Plastic
- **NO** Glass



RESOURCE SAVINGS from Recycling One Ton of Paper:

4,102 kwh less Electricity

60 Lbs less Green House Gases

7,000 gallons less of Water

390 gallons of oil

Make Every Page Count™