

Collier Education Grant "Stand up for Justice"

Stand Up For Justice
Collier Education Grant
Applicant: Sarah Lee

As a K-12 learning environment, Everglades City School has a unique opportunity for older, secondary students to see and experience the younger, elementary students on a day-to-day basis. At a School Advisory Committee meeting, it was brought to the committee's attention that a substantial amount of bullying was occurring in the elementary school. One of our student representatives felt like an anti-bullying message would be the most impactful if coming from the often idolized secondary school students. The idea for a drama production was born.

The drama class, which constitutes virtually half of the high school population, was responsible for all facets of this production. The script writing itself was an immensely moving process which provided a plethora of opportunities to discuss the plaguing issue of bullying and what lies at its core. The students were able to truly focus in on the idea of "JUST ONE" student, one teacher, one act that could and would alter the environment so significantly for the bully as well as those being bullied. The play consisted of 5 scenes which we altered on the second run through in *JUST ONE* way; one bystander choose to speak up, one friend took action, one parent initiated a conversation, and then proceeded to show how that affected the situation. To relate your goal with ours, we wanted to explain to the kids how to counter bullying by action. The class was hoping to start an anti-bullying revolution of sorts by providing a similar vocabulary that every student could speak. To close with our narrator's final lines:

We all have to see that we need to stop making other people feel small, but start working on feeling better about us. This is going to be a new slogan at ECS. JUST ONE. If you see someone getting picked on at the playground, maybe you can say, 'JUST ONE, buddy,' and maybe that will be all it takes to turn it around. Let's have everybody back out on the stage -- Let's see if we can we say it together: Let's all say it -- JUST ONE! Just ONE! Just one! We hope this helps, but don't forget to put it into practice. We want to hear JUST ONES all over the place.

could be a bit of students

JUST ONE!!!!

SAVANNAH: Welcome to our JUST ONE performance. Thank you all for coming! We are starting a conversation today about bullying. The definition of bullying is using superior strength or influence to intimidate someone. Now what does that mean to you? It means doing or saying something to make yourself bigger and someone else smaller. Now we know what it is – we have to start figuring out how to make bullying stop.

Now, today, we are going to be watching the life of a normal, everyday Everglades City School student. She's a third grader to be exact, and her name is Haleigh. We are going to be observing her life at school, in math class, out on the playground, eating lunch, riding home on the bus, and even a little snapshot of her life at home. Let's jump right in and start with how every school day starts – with the bell ringing!

Math Scene BAD

Curtain opens

Class comes in from recess, bell rings and all children begin to have a seat.

Ms. Sindy: Okay everybody up for the Pledge of Allegiance. =pledge= Now, Let's start with a review for our math test today covering the multiplication tables of 8: 8 x 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Trevyr - what is 8 x 1?

Trevyr: 8

Mrs. Sindy: Very nice, Trevyr. How about 8 x 2, Caleb?

Caleb: I think, 16.

Mrs. Sindy: Very nice, Caleb. What about 8 x 3, Travis?

Travis: 24

Mrs. Sindy: Good job. What about 8 x 4, Leanne?

Leanne: 32

Mrs. Sindy: Here's the hardest...Haleigh, how about 8 x 5?

Haleigh: 35

Rest of class, makes snickering noises.

TREVYR: (Whispering to Haleigh) Making sure

Ms Sindy cannot hear):
Duhhh! That's a

dumb answer!

Mrs. Sindy: Very close. Who can help us with 8×5 ?

Leanne: It is 40.

Mrs. Sindy: Very good, Leanne. Sounds like we are ready. Let's go ahead and take our quiz.

Curtain closes - - - Our narrator comes out.

Haylee - Let's see what happens next with our Haleigh. Now let's bump out of class. Let's see what's happening on the way to the lunchroom.

The Lunch
BAD

Haleigh: I'm so excited for lunch!

NAQ: Me Too!

Haleigh: what are you getting?

NAQ: Chicken nuggets. What else?!

(Both share a laugh)

Savannah: What did you bring today?

Haleigh: PB+J and Oreos!

NAQ: Ooohhh! I love some Oreos.

Haleigh sits down at a lunch table opening her lunch box.

NAQ sits by her and talks about hanging out after school. Ana walks over.

Ana: Oh, look at your lunch. That looks so gross!

Haleigh: But I have a juice box!

Tawny: What are you a baby? We haven't had juice since first grade.

Ana: Did your mom pack that?

Haleigh runs away, quite upset.

End

CLOSES.

Haylee - Now what is always after lunch, let's have some recess time? So what do we do at recess? Play kickball or tag – let's what Haleigh will be playing!

The Playground scenario

Bad

Haleigh and five others standing in a group on a playground.

HALEIGH- Guys, we should play tag!

Alan: Okay, but you're it! Everybody RUN! Haleigh's it!

Haleigh looks around at the kids running to see who to run after. Haleigh starts running to the kid nearest to her, but starts panting heavily and slows down unable to catch him/her.

Triston: What's wrong? Can't catch us because you're a turtle?! (Laughter erupts)

Michael: Maybe you would have better luck catching us if you crawled/rolled!

Everyone starts to laugh - Haleigh covers her face

Haleigh: STOP IT!

Michael pushes Haleigh to the ground. Haleigh falls and starts to cry.

Michael: This is so dumb. She's such a big baby

CLOSES

Savannah -- Poor Haleigh. What a day so far, my goodness. Now what happens at the end of the school day? That long bus ride home. So, here they are.

Open:

The Bus scenario

Bad

A Boy and girl are seated in front of the bully

HALEIGH: How was your day at school?

Nic: Good, how about you?

Haleigh: Good, did you get your science project down?

Haleigh: Can I see? (Show science project)

BS: Ooohh! You two are sitting pretty close! Do you like him?

Haleigh: No!

BS: Than why are you sitting with him? You two like each other!

Haleigh: He's my best friend!

BS: Boys and girls cannot be best friends! This is so silly!

Nic is mad and moves two seats to the front

BS: See? He is not your best friend! He just left you.

Haleigh, upset yet again.

Closes:

Haylee: Thank goodness that school day is over! She has gotten bullied all day long.

Open

HOME BAD

Haleigh comes home sad.

Lily: What's wrong, hon?

Haleigh: I'm fine. I...I just scraped my knee.

Haleigh goes to her room thinking about what happened for some time. She starts crying on her desk. After a moment she straightens out and gets her easel and interprets her feeling on to the paper.

Haleigh: Should I tell my parents what happened today? (Shakes head)

Mother walks in

Lily: You alright, sweets?

Haleigh: I'm fine, mom

Dylan: Okay if you're sure.

Dylan and Lily have a conversation about if they think they should ask again?

They leave and poor sad Haleigh draws on her easel.

We see her SAD picture

Haylee - Sweet Haleigh has had one tough day, hasn't she? Now, Here's the fun part!

Let's talk about JUST ONE! (Point out the name of our play –stage right) The name of our play! We are going to see each of our scenes again, but this time JUST ONE person is going to change something- that person might speak up for Haleigh, maybe it is her friend, it might be Haleigh herself. I want you all to watch for that action that changes the story. That's all it takes. JUST ONE!

Math Scene Good

Class comes in from recess, bell rings and all children begin to have a seat.

Ms. Sindy: Let's start with a review for our math test today covering the multiplication tables of 8: 8×1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , and 5 . Trevyr, What is 8×1 ?

Trevyr: 8

Ms. Sindy: Very nice, Trevyr. How about 8×2 , Caleb?

Caleb: I think, 16.

Ms. Sindy: Very nice, Caleb. What about 8×3 , Travis?

Travis: 24

Ms. Sindy: Good girl. What about 8×4 , Leanne?

Leanne: 32

Ms. Sindy: Here's the hardest...Haleigh, how about 8×5 ?

Haleigh: 35

Ms. Sindy: Very close. Who can help us with 8×5 ?

Trevyr starts laughing – saying something unkind, but isn't really able to make a big deal

out of it because of Caleb's interruption.

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Caleb: Don't laugh! I thought it was 35, Haleigh. 5s are HARD? Ya'll be nice!

(This stops Trevyr and the snickering.)

Ms. Sindy: Thank you, Caleb. You are right! Class, just for helping a classmate, look what happens? How about an extra sticker for you!

Closes

Savannah -

NARRATOR: Did we see it? Just one thing? Who was is? (Hopefully, they will yell, CALEB) YES! Caleb stood up for Haleigh. He thought that question was hard, too. So many times a kiddo is made of fun of or picked on for something that all of us struggle with. We have to recognize that when someone is picking on someone else, we have to help stand up for them. Be brave! Admit that you didn't know something either, be that ONE. The JUST ONE.

Now let's look at lunch - who's going to be our JUST ONE here?

Open

The Lunch
Good

Haleigh: I'm so excited for lunch!

Naq: Me Too!

Haleigh: what are you getting?

Naq: Chicken nuggets. What else?!

(Both share a laugh)

Savannah: What did you bring today?

Haleigh: PB+J and Oreos!

Naq: Ooohhh! I love some Oreos.

Haleigh sits down at a lunch table opening her lunch box

Naq sits by her and talks about hanging out after school. Ana walks over.

Ana: Oh look at that lunch. That looks SO GROSS!

HALEIGH: But I have a juice box!

Tawny: What are you a baby? We haven't had juice since first grade.

Naq comes in in.

Naq: She isn't a baby

Ana: Yeah she is. I bet her mom packed her lunch for her!

Naq: Hey, Quit being mean. It ain't cool. That's probably why you don't have a lot of friends. If you were nicer, more kids with sit with you at lunch!

Savannah and Haleigh walk away and move to another table.

The other two are silently eating.

Haleigh and Naq think, then they invite Tawny and Ana to sit with them, too.

CLOSES

Haylee: (NEED TO RECOGNIZE a shift) **Just one** person can change a situation. **Just One** person can influence the choice of another or the actions of another. When Naquashea stood up for Haleigh look what happened.

In school I got bullied as a kid. It was a horrible experience. I remember it was in the elementary school cafeteria, and we were eating lunch, just like Haleigh. I can't remember exactly what the bully said to me, but I do remember that Caleb Morris stood up for me. **Just one.** Just one, all it took was one person to stand up for me and it changed everything. Now let's see what happens out on the playground. Remember to look for that JUST ONE change.

Remember too, that you might really have to step out of your place of being hurt and offer that bully a chance to change. Just like Naq and Haleigh did, they thought about it and then they let Ana and Tawny sit down with them. How does it feel when someone is nice to you? It feels good. Just being kind to someone is JUST ONE thing, isn't it? Now off to recess.

OPEN

The Playground scenario

Good

Haleigh and five others standing in a group on a playground.

Haleigh: Guys, we should play tag!

Alan: Okay, but you're it! Everybody RUN! Haleigh's it!

Haleigh looks around at the kids running to see who to run after. Haleigh starts running to the kid nearest to her but starts panting heavily and slows down unable to catch him/her.

Michael: What's wrong? Can't catch us because you're a turtle?! (Laughter erupts)

Michael: Maybe you would have better luck catching us if you crawled!

Everyone starts to laugh. Haleigh covers her face

Haleigh: STOP IT!

Michael pushes Haleigh to the ground & Haleigh falls and starts to cry.

Triston: This is no fun. She's such a big baby

Ricky: Why would you do that?

Michael: Because she's so slow!

Ricky – Just because she's not fast you make fun of her? That's so low. Have you seen her draw? She's so good. She's so much better than me. I can barely draw a stick person.

Michael: Yeah, you're right. That's pretty low of me. I'm sorry. Let's keep playing, but how about this time, I'm it!

Everybody runs and Michael counts: 20,19, 18, 17, etc.

Curtain closes.

Savannah: Once again, just one! One change. Ricky stood up for Haleigh. He recognized that running might not be her greatest skill, but complimented her. Now is this a normal thing on the playground? For us to say a nice thing to outweigh that mean thing – No Way! But could we start? If we all added that JUST ONE nice thing! Just ONE compliment. My goodness! We could really start making a difference!

Let's see another one – the ole bus ride home.

OPEN

The Bus
Good

A Boy and girl are seated in front of the bully

Haleigh: How was your day at school?

Nic: Good, how about you?

Haleigh: Good, did you get your science project down?

Haleigh. Can I see?

Bully takes a stand

BS: Ooohh! You two are sitting pretty close! (directed to the girl) Do you like him?

Haleigh. No!

BS: Than why are you sitting with him? You two like each other!

Haleigh: He's my best friend!

BS: Boys and girls cannot be best friends! This is so wrong!

[Boy stands up]

NIC: Stop bullying us! We are friends! Im going to tell the bus driver and I'll make sure an adult finds out about this.

Closes:

Haylee: so we have a very common scene here. Bullying on the bus. What does the bus not have a lot of? Adults? You know what – that means that you have to act like one! Just one of you! Just like Nic, did. He stood up for his friend and look what happened. He also recognized a really important part here. There is a big difference between tattle telling and knowing when you need help from an adult. Did Nic solve this just by standing up for his friend? He sure did! Maybe the next time that doesn't work. Now is the time for him to get help. Let a teacher know, talk to your bus driver, tell Mr. Ragusa you are having trouble on the bus. That's why all of these adults are around. They care about you and they want you to feel safe so you can focus on learning! Now, last scene. What's gonna be the JUST ONE thing?

Open

Home

Good

Haleigh comes home sad.

Lily: What's wrong, darlin'?

Dylan? Yea, why are you crying?

Haleigh: I'm fine I..I just scraped my knee.

Lily recognizes and she has a conversation with Dylan about making sure they know what's going on.

Dylan: I don't think she's telling the truth. Let's go check on her, honey.

Haleigh goes to her room thinking about what happened for some time. She starts crying on her desk. After a moment she straightens out and gets her easel and interprets her feeling on to the paper.

Mother and father walks into the room.

Lily: Are you drawing, sweetheart?

Dylan: Haleigh, you gotta tell us what's going on!

Haleigh: It's just I've had a really rough day. I've been getting bullied at school and I just don't know what to do.

Haleigh starts crying again. Mother comes and tries calming her down.

Lily: I am so glad you told us because now we can figure this out. We can talk to your teacher, we can fix this! Thank you for being brave and telling us about this. Being silent won't fix anything!

Dylan: I'm proud of you, Haleigh. I know you didn't want to tattle tell, but this is important. We will help you. We can figure this out. Now that we know, we can be a part of changing it around for you, baby!

Haleigh: Thanks, Mom & Dad! I'm just going to draw a little bit in here.

Then, they all hug, and Haleigh begins to draw. We see in her drawing the difference JUST ONE has made.

Curtain closes!

SAVANNAH: Did you see? This last JUST ONE was HALEIGH! She turned it around because she talked to her mom and dad. She was honest and it takes courage to tell someone you need help. Now, I want us to all be thinking of how we can be that JUST ONE! How can we stick up for someone on the playground? To help a friend? Or maybe I'm the bully – how can I recognize that I can be the JUST ONE.

Haylee : We all have to see that we need to stop making other people feel small by starting to work on feeling better about you. This is going to be a new slogan at ECS.

JUST ONE. If you see someone getting picked on at the playground, maybe you can

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say, "JUST ONE, buddy," and maybe that will be all it takes to turn it around. Let's see if we can we say it together: Let's all say it – JUST ONE! Just ONE! Just one! We hope this helps, but don't forget to put it into practice. We want to hear JUST ONES all over the place.

Thank you for coming to our performance. And now let's give a round of applause to the EVG drama class!

Grab hands and take a bow



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Ryan Sickels is an outstanding educator who is always paying attention to his students' needs. In the 2013-2014 school year Ryan created an anti-bullying club called, "Stand by Me". In that club he helped students to become Upstanders, not Bystanders. He worked with the students to create a safe place that allowed students to express themselves to their peers through media about their own experiences with bullying. We watched his student members increase their self-esteem and help their peers to understand the impact that bullying really can have. They all became more confident, and certainly learned that it is not only good – but necessary, to Stand By one another.

The attached videos were created for the CPM student body as Public Service Announcements. The participants wrote, acted, and directed the videos. They all grew as a result of their Stand By Me after school club affiliation. It should be noted that the students in this club had all experienced bullying either as a victim or a bystander in the past. They no longer tolerate bullying and even when the club is not in session, they live by the club's mission.

The club will continue this year, and membership is already increased from last year. Mr. Sickels makes a difference every day.

I respectfully ask you to consider Mr. Sickels for your grant for "Stand up for Justice". A grant would allow Mr. Sickels to continue the work that he has been doing and to continue to empower students to spread the word about the importance of respecting one another.

Sincerely,

Nancy Tairete

Assistant Principal

Cypress Palm Middle School



COLLIER COUNTY CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAITS

Citizenship Cooperation Honesty Kindness Patriotism Perseverance
Respect Responsibility Self-Control Tolerance