



# Shepherd of the Hills Christian School

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## BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME

### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

#### **Shepherd is a Christian school that utilizes *Love and Logic*™ skills.**

Many of you parents already know the *Love and Logic*™ model of parenting. Our teachers already use *Love and Logic*™ principles in classroom situations per our Parent/Student Handbook. Since August, our staff has been working to review the *Love and Logic*™ model of classroom management through professional training. Our Interim Principal, Jack Lipski, is a Certified *Love and Logic*™ Instructor.

This training will mean adopting the principles or core beliefs of *Love and Logic*™ that work to individualize how teachers handle each unique student in different situations. Check out the Parent/Student Handbook or go to our school website under “A Love and Logic School.” These core beliefs are very much in keeping with our Christian values and goals here at Shepherd. We realize that a “one size fits all” approach to discipline isn’t the best for all students...just as a “one size fits all” teaching style isn’t the best for all students.

We want to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher. Students will be expected to solve the problems they create without causing problems for others. We want to help you parents raise responsible kids! (Sometimes, they might need some ideas from teachers as to how to solve these problems.) We want to give students the opportunity to learn from their mistakes in preparation for the real world. **We believe mistakes are powerful learning tools that are often unused by parents and teachers.**

In the coming weeks, we will be explaining more of how Shepherd uses *Love and Logic*™ techniques. We’re excited; we hope you are too!

Jack Lipski, Interim Principal, and certified *Love and Logic*™ Instructor





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## Break the Dress Code Days

These fun days will be the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays of each month. Cost to break the dress code is \$1.00. Monies will support the Washington DC trip and be collected mornings at the front door. Please see P. 34 of the handbook for guidelines. Although the day is called “break the dress code,” it does not mean “anything goes.”

## Bully-Proofing Shepherd

This week, I began talking to every class about bullying. I want every student to feel safe from bullies. Students are instructed to seek help from a teacher, coach or me by using the words: “I need help because I am being bullied.” Please continue reading the following Jack’s Corner article for more information.

## Jack’s Corner

**Question:** I have kids 5 and 9. How can I talk to them about the difference between bullying and regular conflict with their classmates?

**Answer:** Regular conflict, although not fun for a kid of any age, is an integral part of socialization and maturing. In a sinful and fallen world, kids have to learn to be flexible, give and take, compromise, take turns, shake it off and reconcile. Conflict provides much of the opportunity to learn and internalize these social skills. Kids learn different skills at different times in their lives as they emotionally and spiritually mature. Keep in mind that both bullying and regular conflict look somewhat different at different ages; both become more sophisticated with age.

True bullying normally has three components: (1) Bullying is repetitive and consistently targets a specific victim. (2) Bullying involves a power differential where one person lacks the ability to defend himself. The power imbalance might be because of sheer size and strength, or because of emotional and cognitive skill or capacity. (3) Bullying is usually characterized by very unequal levels of emotional display. The victim is quite distressed and upset, whereas the bully demonstrates little emotion or empathy. Also, be aware of the differences between how girls and boys bully. Girls tend to bully using mean looks, secrets, gossip, cliques and cyber space. Boys tend to bully using physical intimidation, cliques,

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threats, ridicule and cyber space.

When talking to a child, it is best to use many specific examples and have the child determine which is bullying (Where the child requires help from an adult.), and which is a conflict opportunity to grow in social development. Role-playing is a great way to help children remember the differences and create ways to handle the different situations. Your conversations with your son will have to be on-going. There is no one-time vaccination to fix struggles in the day-to-day relationships of a kid's life.

Conflicts also give children opportunities to live and demonstrate their Christian faith. Sharing, taking turns, compromise, sacrifice, talking it out, "turning the other cheek", forgiving, prayer and reconciliation should be part of regular conflicts.

Bullies and bullying situations are handled differently within the context of Christianity. The question to be asked is: "What is the best way to really love a bully?" A bully requires the "strong" side of love. The goal should be to stop a bully from continuing bullying behavior (sin). A bully needs accountability, monitoring, limits, boundaries and a chance to learn empathy and new ways of interrelating. Christian love shows itself in these ways with bullies (e.g. "Turning the other cheek" doesn't work well with bullies).

You will need to work and pray with your kids so they can discern which situation they are experiencing, so they know how to handle it. If it is regular conflict, they can learn to reason, compromise, share, take turns, walk away, work it out, or "go the extra mile". If it is bullying, they can learn to ask for help right away, get out of the situation if possible, assert themselves, think ahead to avoid, use humor at times, develop a greater self-confidence and become less of a target. Make certain you keep in regular contact with his teacher.

Jack Lipski, M.A.

Christian Counselor

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**[Mini-camp for Cheerleaders](#) offered by Arapahoe High School**

**Remember to check out the [teachers' newsletters](#) every week!**

**"Rumble" the Shepherd Ram**

At Chapel this past Wednesday, I announced the name for our Shepherd mascot. The winning name came from 7th and 8th grade. They got to “soak the principal” Friday after school.

### **Electives Started this Week!**

Our Middle School students chose and began electives this week. They included: Drama, Yearbook, Teacher Assistant, Big Group P.E., Science Fiction Film and Literature, Art, STEM and Intelligence Analysis.

### **Auction Money Spent**

Thanks to your and Shepherd church members’ generosity, we have \$41,000 to spend on technology. Our new classroom computers will be Chromebook tablets for K-4 and Windows 10 for 5-8. Thanks to Steve Ber-scheid and Rob Fenstermacher and their countless volunteer hours, we have also doubled internet speed and greatly improved our wireless system.

### **Letter from Lutheran High**

Dear 8th grade families,

I hope you are having a great start to your school year! My name is Hannah Buchholz, I am the Director of Admissions at Lutheran High School. As you begin the search for the right high school for your student, please feel free to use me as a resource.

You have already made a huge investment in sending your student to a Lutheran middle school - that's awesome! We want to continue the great Christian education they are getting now, on into high school. I'm happy to help answer your big questions like, "What makes a high school great?" And more specifically, "What makes a high school great for my student?"

We'd love to have you come in for a personal tour or set up a shadow day for your student. You can do that by clicking [here](#). We'd also love to have you come to this year's Open House on October 21st: [www.lhsparker.org/](http://www.lhsparker.org/)

Also, just for your information, our 7th and 8th Grade Preview Day is September 20th this year from 11:30-2pm.