

# MAXIMUS MARS

AN ANTI-BULLYING SHOW DESIGNED FOR GRADES 3RD AND HIGHER

## Cyberbullying

The internet, smart phones, texting... the rise of these devices has given rise to a serious epidemic facing our nation's young people--cyberbullying.

One of the biggest concerns surrounding cyberbullying is the fact that it's hitting young people in the most intimate of places--their private home. Whether it is found on their phones, tablets, or laptops, it comes when they are perhaps, most vulnerable.

We've seen too many tragedies that have sprung from the result of this new type of bullying. Hopefully, this production and study guide will, if nothing else, facilitate a discussion with your young people and raise awareness to this important issue.

### WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL:

Cyberbullying happens when teens use the Internet, cell phones, or other devices to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

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## The Design of the Show!

In designing this show, we wanted to come up with an environment that would grasp the attention of middle school audiences. So we fell upon the idea of Steam Punk. While visually stimulating to young audiences, Steam Punk combines Victorian clothing with a sci-fi twist. Popularized in the 1980's and 1990's.

How to best sum up the designs: Goggles and top hats! A google search of 'steam punk' will deliver some creative & inventive creations. i.e. Lincoln/space suit.

We are really excited about the results of these designs and hope your young audiences enjoy them as much as we enjoyed designing them!



This supporting Character, Julian Jupiter, is a humanoid from Pluto. She along with the audience empowers Maximus with the tools he needs to stop being bullied.



**ANTAGONIST** The main enemy of the protagonist. In Maximus Mars, the protagonist is Commodore 64. He is the lead bullytron who tries tirelessly to antagonize Maximus!



**PROTAGONIST!** The lead character of the production is Maximus Mars. He is a humanoid who has just crashed his futuristic Honda Civic spaceship on a distant planet.

# Techniques to stop Cyberbullying



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## WHO'S BEING CYBERBULLIED?

50% of students report being cyberbullied!

## WAYS TO STOP CYBERBULLYING!

Often times schools find themselves with their hands tied when they hear of cyberbullying incidents that happened outside of the school day. Consider adding a clause to your policies that empowers the school to take action when incidents occur outside of campus that affect the well-being and safety of fellow students.

Otherwise consider some of the following techniques to help put an end to cyberbullying:

1. If the bully is someone you don't know, don't respond to them. It'll just encourage them more.
2. Sometimes people create false identities on the internet. Pictures and stats can easily be made up.

1. Tell an adult what's up.
2. Change your email
3. Keep a detailed record
4. Block Phone numbers
5. Don't read the messages
6. Never forward gossip
7. Reach out to the victim
8. Empower Yourself!
9. Know it's not your fault
10. Ignore them

## ON THE WEB!

Ironically, the internet is a wonderful resource for tools and techniques on how to handle cyberbullying. The National Crime Prevention Council and other organizations have lots of interactive websites and tools for students. Due to the rapid change in websites and outdated links we stopped providing links in our study guides--however google phrases like 'anti-bullying techniques,' 'Dealing with cyber bullies,' etc.

3. Of course, let an adult know what's happening! Block the bully from your social pages, profiles, etc.
4. You can always change your phone number and email or delete a social media account.
5. Don't delete the messages, in case you want to use them as evidence.
6. Consider involving authorities--afterall, cyberbullying is against the law.
7. Never keep secrets from your parents. Openness is very important for your well-being. If your parents are part of the problem, then find another trusted adult to help you.

8. Don't resolve to put up with abuse, it can be harmful to you for years to come.

9. Remember you are not the problem. You deserve respect and kindness just like everyone else.

It bears repeating. If you are an adult that's been approached about a bullying incident online or in person then you have a responsibility to help this young person effectively handle their predicament.

## WHO IS BRIGHT STAR THEATRE?

Quickly becoming one of America's largest nationally touring theatre companies--Bright Star has built a national reputation of delivering professional programs at all-inclusive pricing. Black history, literary, curriculum and character education focused shows make up the season. The company has toured since August 2003 serving audiences as diverse as the National Theatre in Washington DC to the Spoleto Festival in Charleston to the National Underground Railroad Museum.

## WEBSITE:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

Videos/study guides and more!

## ACTORS

Annually, our company watches over 1200 actors audition for our season. The actors depicted in this study guide, are not necessarily the same actors that will be arriving at your venue.

## MAXIMUS MARS

Sole Property of Bright Star Children's Theatre, LLC. The show was written by David Ostergaard. For rights and inquiries connect with us anytime at [www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

Questions? Concerns? Anything!

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## Create an Anonymous Reporting Box....

One tool that many schools have found quite helpful is creating an anonymous box, someplace in the school where students that are victims or witnesses to bullies can quietly report the incident. Open lines of communication and a sense of being valued are keys to creating a better school environment.

## Gossip

Once again, the key to squashing gossip issues is to stress to students the importance of not participating in this problem. **Ehow online** came up with this activity:

Launch a gossip free day. Have students create badges and commence the day with an assembly. Then as the day goes on anytime a student hears someone gossiping, they claim that person's badge. At the end of the day, the top ten students with the most badges are awarded prizes.

Stopping Gossip is as easy as not spreading the rumor that you just heard.

# TRAVELING ACTORS!



\* Send letters and drawings to the actors! Traveling is hard work. As long as the package arrives while they're still on tour, they'll send your class a thank you note!

*This tour will most likely spend the bulk of it's time traveling between Michigan and Florida along I-75, and along I-95 up through New Jersey!*

## Classroom Activities!

One idea to effectively address the issue of cyberbullying is to have the class work together to come up with ways to

combat the bullying behavior.

As a group, circle up and come up with a variety of circumstances where cyberbullying may be occurring. Then,

address the best way to handle each example.

It's important, that people understand that their passive behavior in bullying situations makes them just as guilty as the bully.

## CREATING A BULLY FREE ZONE



We constantly encourage young people to seek the help of an adult when they're being bullied. This takes a great deal of courage and your reaction can make a big difference in this young person's life. Do you know what to do if a student confides in you? Does the rest of the faculty? Consider asking your students the questions on the right...their answers may well surprise you.

**Questions!**

Do you feel safe at School?

Where on campus have you experienced bullying?

What can teachers do to help you feel safer?

Have you told an adult what you've witnessed?

Who are the bullies in this school?

Are you ever bullied outside of school?