

Press Release for Sticks and Stones winter play at Eden Prairie High School



We would like to invite you to a play about bullying called Sticks and Stones.

- Feb 1, 3, 4 at 7:30 pm in and Feb. 4 at 1:30 pm EPHS Auditorium  
The February 2<sup>nd</sup> performance listed on the EP district calendar has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Tickets: \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for adults available at the door.
- Please be aware that there are some disturbing things that happen on stage that may be difficult for children younger than 10 years old.
- Director – Suzie Sime  
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This show has been created and performed by students from Eden Prairie High School based on things that have happened to the cast. The show runs about an hour and has two parts. The first part is sharing stories about bullying that are all too common in the lives of students all over our country. The second part has some ideas and tools for peers, adults, parents and teachers to help the victims and the bullies themselves. There will be a chance for people to stay after the show and talk to the cast members. We are presenting this to highlight things that are happening in all schools as well as a way to support the healing and prevention process.

Last year I knew it was time to do a show on bullying. Victims of bullying are more likely to struggle in their classes, decrease their participation at school, and drop out before graduation. Adults that were bullied as children are more prone to depression and anxiety. They are three times more likely to consider suicide than their peers. I figured that we could take stories from the news and create a show from the students' point of views. When I was planning the show 2 of the cast members approached me letting me know they had been bullied. As we began rehearsals I was stunned and saddened as most of the cast members shared their stories about being bullied. Often these kids stay silent because they don't want more intense bullying and they are pretty sure no one will believe them plus no one will be able to do anything about it.

One of our cast members struggled for 3 years with bullying in another district. She had 100% support of her parents and family who took the bullying to the principal and got no relief, went to the superintendent who laughed at her journal documenting the bullying. The attitude toward her was "kids will be kids." The family had to move to get her out of the situation. She is now a freshman at EPHS where she is flourishing and healing.

Another cast member struggled with an eating disorder and family issues. She was also bullied relentlessly by students. She contemplated suicide and attempted it 4 times. Her family realized the depth of her pain and torment and worked with her and the schools to get help. She is now a senior at EPHS where she is learning that life can be beautiful. She still has many dark days and is learning how to cope with and move on with her life. With the support of her family, friends, and other adults she is healing.

As we have discovered in our exploration of the topic, the pain is far deeper than many adults can accept and the healing process often takes years. We believe that we must speak out to stop bullying and to create a safe environment for all students.

"You know, you don't have to be the loser kid in high school to be bullied. Bullying and being picked on comes in so many different forms." [Lady Gaga](#)

"We've got to dispel this myth that bullying is just a normal rite of passage." President Obama