

# STEM Leads Shoemaker

## Anti-Bullying Campaign

By Madison Lozano

Shoemaker High School students are embracing a bully-free environment through the coordinated efforts of student groups spearheaded by the STEM Academy.

“The whole project involves all the clubs, to share the message to stop bullying,” said STEM Coordinator Dr. Sandra Melendez, calling her Shoemaker’s efforts a school-wide endeavor for the week of Oct. 13-17, in honor of anti-bullying month.

STEM first began to tackle the bullying issue last year, said senior Catlain Melendez, the president of STEM.

“This year, we wanted to involve the school more,” she said. “I was bullied a lot in my past, so it’s personal. Most of us, especially in STEM, have experienced bullying.”

Together, the groups spent last week raising anti-bullying awareness, from sharing the message through morning announcements and posters around the school, to hosting a purple-out football game, during which all participants incorporated the color purple into their uniforms, waving purple flags and shaking purple pom poms.

“Purple is the color of anti-bullying,” Catlain Melendez said.

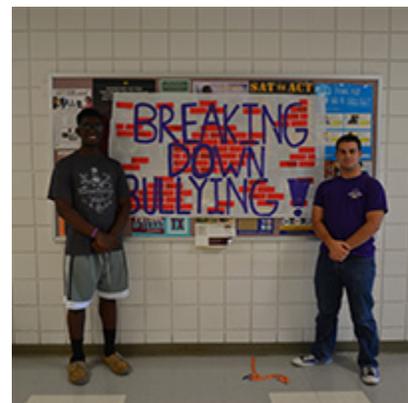
The goal was to raise awareness both that bullying must be stopped, while showing support for those who have been bullied.

One of the primary collaborators on the project was S2S (Student 2 Student), a club that serves as the school’s welcome committee to new students.

“Its an organization that helps integrate new students into the school and community,” said senior Jermaine. He and classmate Central Hicks serve as co-presidents of the club.

In the military town of Killeen, Shoemaker sees more than 700 new students each year.

“We’re the first person they meet, their first friend,” Jermaine said.



Working with STEM on anti-bullying made perfect sense to the club.

“Our motto is 100 percent acceptance,” Hicks said.

Another partner in anti-bullying is Heart 2 Heart, a campus positivity club.

“We promote love and happiness and tackle those important teenage problems,” said sponsor Audrey Kosclski, the school dance teacher, meaning the anti-bullying message goes hand-in-hand with the club’s mission.

During the weeklong campaign, Kosclski’s students handed out brochures on preventing bullying, took anti-bullying pledges and made morning announcements.

“We want to say hey, I’m not a bully—we want to get the word out that it’s not tolerated here,” she said.

The Thursday night game was a rousing success, with the STEM robot outfitted in purple lights, shooting purple t-shirts out to the crowd after the football team ran through a banner dotted with purple handprints.

The game was the perfect conclusion to the week, topping off the students hard work with a celebratory win—the Shoemaker Grey Wolves beat Harker Heights 24-16.

October 23, 2014

## Contact KISD

KISD Central Office  
200 N. WS Young Dr.  
Killeen, TX. 76543

[254-336-0000](tel:254-336-0000)

