

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Mission Statement

A. Promote the Safety and Well-Being of Our Students:

Gay and lesbian students represent a high-risk population. They represent a disproportionately high percentage of substance abusers, are more likely to engage in sexually high-risk behaviors, are more likely to suffer from depression, commit suicide, or suffer physical and verbal abuse.

A conservative estimate is that one in twenty people is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgendered. Using this estimate, we can reasonably expect that we have 22 or so students at a given time who fall into this category. We believe that we should allow for a safe and supportive meeting place where students can dialogue about how to end homophobia and create positive changes in our school.

B. Educate Our Community and Encourage Productive Dialogue About GLBT Issues:

Understanding that Gay and Lesbian issues are heated both socially and politically, we propose that informed, respectful, and safe dialogue is the best way to explore such matters. Homophobia results when people's attitudes about homosexuality are based in fear and/or ignorance. Community education can help to counter homophobia and the ill effects it may have on members of our community.

C. Have Fun

We provide the opportunity for students to get together, eat, socialize, and discuss important issues should be fun and enhance community life.

In summary, the purpose of this group is to affirm the sacred worth of all individuals. Through education, it seeks to create an atmosphere of understanding and tolerance which will combat the injustices of discrimination and harassment.