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NEWS RELEASE AND MEDIA INVITATION  
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For Immediate Release

## **Workman Middle School Students Pledge to Help End Bullying *Don't Be A Fool. Put Your Hands Down! Take a Stand against Bullying!***

Pensacola, FL: No one likes a bully and students at Workman Middle School are challenging their classmates to join in an effort to reinforce that message in their school, especially now as Abuse Awareness Month is only a few weeks away. Students on the schools Anti-Bully Committee are wrapped up a special week of preparation today (March 18) and now all of us to help spread their message with them.

The Anti-Bully Committee was formed at the beginning of the year with the intention of combating violence in their school. Workman Middle is an IB and PBIS school and they have several programs in place for student and staff incentives to make positive choices, but wanted to do more.

"We, their teachers and administrators wanted to create a community of students who knew the adults here are willing to invest in the students. So, we decided to guide them in creating a student-led coalition," said Maria Jacobs, Workman Middle Schools Behavior Coach. "We advertised for a student based, anti-bully coalition, and we were so excited to see over 40 students sign up."

Due to the overwhelming response from the students, the schools leadership decided to create a student leadership team. A Student Leadership Board was created through a formal application process. The applicants were voted on by the adult board members, and teacher recommendations as well as interviews were considered. There are 14 student board members who have been delegated to lead the following areas of the Coalition; technology, art & design, public relations and data analysis.

"We also created a multi-grade level class that student members could enroll in to allow the students to work daily on upcoming events, research, post in the Coalition goggle classroom and discuss and problem solve social issues related to bullying. As a Coalition, they chose to sponsor an outside organization, The Gulf Coast Kids House," said Jacobs. This class is similar to a high school student government elective.

The student coalition's art and design team designed a t-shirt, a bracelet and wrote an anti-bullying pledge. The pledge was printed on book marks (**image attached**) for the students who took the pledge. During the week of March 14 - 18, they asked all Workman students to take the pledge not to be a bully, be bullied, or stand by and watch it happen to someone else.

Students could take the pledge for free, but donations were encouraged. The Coalition has been

collecting donations all week for the Gulf Coast Kids House; such as, baby wipes, diapers, juice boxes or \$1. Those who took the pledge also filled out a paw print to add to a wall display.

In addition, Workman Middle has been asked to help the City of Pensacola by making blue ribbons that will be displayed all over the city in April for the *Blue to Better Campaign*, an effort to bring attention to April being Abuse Awareness Month.

"We are working so hard to make a difference, one pledge at a time, one bow at a time, one student at a time! And this week, we reached out and 200 students joined us and took the anti-bully pledge!" said Maria Jacobs, Workman Middle Schools Behavior Coach.

Workman Middle Schools POC: Maria Jacobs, Behavior Coach and PBIS Committee Chair, 8550-494-5665, ext. 274

A photo album from today's event, including team photos of the Anti-bully Committee, is available on Facebook on the Escambia Schools Public relations page.

Media queries about any event listed on this release should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-469-6219 or [kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us). Like ECSD on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ecsdf](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdf) Go to Escambia Schools Public Relations on [www.facebook.com/ecsdf.public](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdf.public) to see pictures of recent events. Visit ECSDs web page at [www.escambiaschools.org](http://www.escambiaschools.org)  
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