



SOPHOMORE TURNED BULLYING INTO ACTIVISM IN ELEMENTARY

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As much as we don't like to admit it, bullying is as common in school as math class.

But what is bullying? According to the Stop Bullying Government website, "Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems." Bullying is the use of force, hurtful teasing, intimidating, or forcefully dominating another person.

Ivy Greene, sophomore, has come to put her story out there. Greene had been bullied since the age of six years old, starting in just the first grade. However, she did not reach out to someone, not even her parents, until the sixth grade when she finally got her principal involved.

The bullying Greene experienced consisted of many racist comments, mostly towards her hair and skin color.

"Comments about my hair and skin, a lot of drawings were made, videos School

were shown of other black people getting beat up and threats about me. They would like to pull my hair," she said.

Greene experienced many kinds of bullying, many verbal and many physical threats. Greene theorizes that the result of being in a "predominantly white school" caused this bullying. In the sixth grade, Greene finally decided to get her parents involved to contain the bullying.

Once Greene's parents found out, they went to the school board to put an end to the bullying. Her principal started making an effort to also end this horrific bullying. The principal created an assembly for anti-bullying. Greene wanted to do more than just a simple assembly. She went to her principal who helped her start a club for black people who have also experienced this kind of bullying. The club was called MAC (Melanin Appreciation Club).

"My parents went to the school board about it. The principal found out and made announcements about it and they had an assembly about bullying and then he helped my get the club started," she said.

MAC was even more than that

though.

"It was also made to educate kids on black history and black appreciation," she said.

Although this bullying went on for several years, ever since, Greene has not let it affect her. If anything, she sees herself as bigger and better since the bullying. She's grown from the terrible situation.

"I'm definitely better now, now I laugh about it, because I think that I'm better than that, I don't care about it anymore, it's past me," Greene said.

Greene has since shared her advice with victims of bullying to not let it get to them. Don't let it get in the way of how you see yourself or others.

"It's really just about not letting people affect you in a negative way in order to bring yourself down. Don't listen to others and be yourself no matter what the circumstance is."

BEING BULLIED?

Talk to an adult you trust. Don't keep your feelings inside. Telling someone can help you feel less alone. They can help you make a plan to stop the bullying.

Stay away from places where bullying happens.

Stay near adults and other kids.

Most bullying happens when adults aren't around.

-StopBullying.gov