The 45-minute videos present scenarios as well as in-person interviews that deal with bullying, gangs, self-image, peer pressure, motivation and goal setting. Bayside students said they really enjoyed the presentation. When asked what they learned, students shared comments like, “Make good choices,” “Treat everyone with respect,” and, “Bullying hurts everyone.”

Middle school is an important time of physical, emotional and social transition as students begin the journey to adulthood. At Bayside STEM Academy, students are learning values and skills that help, as our district mission statement says, “prepare them to be socially responsible, contributing members of our community.”

Part of the district’s 2010-2011 strategic plan includes Student Social Responsibility. One of the specific action steps includes providing, “…programs and services designed to develop student decision-making skills in the areas of conflict resolution, peer support, and bullying.” Bayside STEM provides many avenues of encouragement and support to help students learn to make positive choices through homeroom discussions, community outreach, service opportunities and special presentations and assemblies.

In the beginning of September, students were treated to a multimedia extravaganza by CAMFEL Productions during two assembly presentations. Presented on three large screens along with movie snippets and student interviews, 8th grade students were treated to “Dare to Move,” a special presentation addressing fear of failure, rejection and humiliation—just a few of the fears that can paralyze, discourage, or destroy one’s dreams. 6th and 7th graders viewed “Balance of Power,” which emphasizes that “life is not fair,” and encourages students to stop blaming and accusing others in an effort to level the playing field. Students were encouraged to take responsibility for their choices and to see the value of the challenges they face each day. Balance of Power motivates students to reach for their dreams, while, along the way, helping those around them to do the same. This is our third year of having CAMFEL present.

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