



City Year workshops to address bullying at North

By KEEGAN BEDINGER
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Bullying remains one of the biggest problems in high school, and the issue has been addressed aggressively by Nashua High School North with the recent Bully Box put in place by the Student Senate.

The box allows students to report bullying issues, which enables quick access to help from the administration.

From there, even more steps are being taken to address the issue. Principal David Ryan has invited City Year to come to the school and test sessions that will help students learn to respect others and their differences.

“The workshops will help find commonalities between students to break down barriers so that people can connect with other students instead of solely looking at differences,” said senior Adam McAfee, vice president of the Student Senate.

The workshops will begin in mid-February and run as a test session for only certain students to see how effective they are. The students participating in the process will be picked in advance based on certain criteria.

They’ll be “looking for presidents of clubs, officers of honor societies, captains of sports teams and overall leaders of the school,” McAfee said.

City Year is a national organization devoted to young people making a difference in education. The program consists of people ages 17-24, a factor that makes them extremely effective when working with high school students.

North is full of diverse students, which is one of the greatest things about the school. Even though diversity is a good thing, it can lead to some issues among students who aren’t always able to see past the differences they observe in the hallway.

When asked what she hopes the students will take away from the City Year experience, senior Bryanna Burns said, “I think they should take away that bullying is not the answer to differences between each other and that throughout life, people are different, and now is a good time to learn how to deal with that.”

Cliques are inevitable in high school, but it’s hoped this experience will open students’ eyes to what’s beyond their daily circle.

“Most kids just hang out with alike people, and these workshops will help them do something they wouldn’t normally do,” Burns said.

Assuming the test sessions run well, the City Year workshops will help students take one step closer to ending bullying and be an enlightening experience for all participants.

Keegan Bedinger is a senior at Nashua High School North.