Q: What is an astronaut’s favorite meal?
A: Launch
—Jenn from South Fayette

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?
A: To get away from the children who were making fun of others.

Q: What did the judge say when the skunk came into the courtroom?
A: Odor in the Court!
—Art from Point Breeze

If you are interested

We would love to have two of our attorneys come to your school to meet with your students and present “This is a Joke - Making Fun of Others is Not!” If you have multiple classes, we could provide as many attorneys as needed. We have many volunteers for this program, because our attorneys recognize the importance of these subjects.

If you would be interested in having us present “This is a Joke - Making Fun of Others is Not!” to complement your anti-bullying efforts, please contact:

Tom Loftus
Director of Marketing
Allegheny County Bar Association
412-402-6620
tloftus@acba.org

If you think that students in other grades, in addition to grades K-5, would benefit from this program, we would be happy to speak to students in those grades as well.

This is a Joke - Making Fun of Others is Not!
Program

Allegheny County Bar Association
Raising the Bar on Legal and Community Service

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This is a Joke – Making Fun of Others is Not! Program

From the Allegheny County Bar Association

You don’t have to have children or work with them to know that many children make fun of each other. Often, feelings are hurt, but even worse, the teasing and fun could develop into insensitivity toward others who are of a different race, religion, nationality, etc. As you know, addressing these issues as early as possible is important.

That’s why we have put together this 45 minute interactive and fun program for students in grades K to 5 to teach the difference between a good joke and a bad one, why making fun of others is wrong, and why it’s our differences that make us special.

We know that all school districts are committed to these important lessons, so we thought that having members of the legal community speak to your students about these subjects could help reinforce your on going efforts.

Who are we?

We are the 6,500 attorneys, judges, and paralegals of the Allegheny County Bar Association, and we have a long history of working with our communities on important issues. We often have contact with our city’s children through our work in the courts, schools, and communities, and we feel that heading off the start of bigotry and promoting the acceptance of differences at an early age is important.

How does the program work?

We reinforce serious messages/lessons in a relaxed, fun environment. We encourage and recognize the use of good, fun jokes, but point out why making fun of others is wrong. There is a lot of interactive discussion with the students as we talk about how we are all different and why that makes us all special. Students are asked to bring their favorite good, fun jokes to the program, so that we can share them with the class.

Q: What did the picture say to the judge?
A: I have been framed.
—Davey from Moon

Why the joke angle?

First of all, children love to tell jokes. From their earliest “Why did the chicken cross the road?” joke, kids understand that they can make people laugh by telling a joke. Unfortunately, as they grow older, jokes can take on a discriminatory tone, or at the very least, make fun of others.

We discuss with the students why good, fun jokes are acceptable and reward them with a gift for telling these types of jokes. (We will also put some of their jokes on our website.)

We then explain why jokes that make fun of others are not acceptable.

Our attorneys will share with your students times that they were the subjects of jokes that hurt their feelings or when their own jokes hurt others. Joke telling would make the program entertaining and thus create an environment where critical lessons and messages can be more effectively communicated.

Every child receives a gift that reinforces the messages discussed during the program.