

~ MANIX ~

After relentless bullying that convinced him he would never be understood, desperate 9-year-old attempted to end his pain on the school playground.



Manix's mom describes her son as **"unique, passionate, eccentric and totally the kindest ever."** He adores his brothers and sisters and is helpful. Manix is VERY SOCIAL, yet when he tries to connect to other kids, he's not great at reading their emotions due to a processing disorder. He follows the beat to his own drum, which has led to misunderstandings and a lack of tolerance in peers who find entertainment in bullying him.

NO ONE DESERVES TO BE BULLIED, EVER!

Starting in 2nd Grade in northern California, **older kids have hit Manix and tried to force him to fight others. He is called "mayonnaise" and "ugly" and foul names.**

His family moved across town in July 2019 and Manix entered 3rd Grade as the NEW KID IN SCHOOL. On the 2nd day, **Manix got off the bus with a bloody nose from being hit.** His mom can count "on two hands" how many times he got off the bus "okay" this year.

In one instance, his mom says, "The kid was trying to bully him for a present he had for me... Manix fought back and **the boy choked him out and held him down.** The school informed me Manix was not to blame."

Shortly after, in a terrifying cry for help, Manix was (thankfully) found at recess having tied one end of a jump-rope around his neck. He was trying to swing the other end around a tree branch, desperate to put an end to the hurt. Manix later explained that he felt "misunderstood" and that made him feel hopeless and so sad.

In December, Manix was kicked off the bus along with his bully because he raised his hands in self-defense, so his parents made a rule "no hands on anyone... walk away and do not engage." In his interview with ABC KCKR News, **Manix says, "I learned if you hit back, two wrongs don't make a right."**



The same bus driver who kicked both Manix and his bully off the bus weeks back, allowed bullying to happen again a few weeks later. Manix chose not to fight back. The incident was captured by another student on her cell phone and quickly went viral after it was posted.

Manix's mom, Samantha, had alerted the school countless times to bullying but until this video, she never had physical proof that her son was being victimized and it was not just a fight between kids. Faced with the video evidence, the school is investigating this incident. Meanwhile, Manix's parents pulled him from the school for the remainder of the year. They are looking for a new school placement for their son with zero tolerance for bullying.

Ambassadors, tell Manix you are... PROUD OF HIM FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING and HAVING THE STRENGTH NOT TO FIGHT BACK, for his INDIVIDUALITY and tell him, BE YOURSELF!

This 9-year-old loves anything adventurous, especially things where he can go fast like scooters, bikes and video games. He has started JIU JITSU classes. Manix aspires to be a singer, and looks up to his dad who is a musician. Manix loves to compose Heavy Metal songs to sing around the house!! When needing to chill-out, Manix's go-to is reading a book.



DUE DATE FOR MANIX'S LETTERS is APRIL 3rd, 2020!