



Mount Carmel Area School District

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May 5, 2017

Dear parents and guardians:

We are writing as an administration team today due to increased concern with student proper use of social media and possible cyber-bullying. As we are all aware, social media is a huge part of many of our students' lives. Kidshealth.org reports that upwards of 90% of teens use social media and 75% have their own profile on social media sites such as facebook, twitter and snapchat. We urge you to please monitor your child's account often. We also realize that many parents want to respect their child's privacy but we also want to make sure they are safe as well. This may include creating a "Social Media Agreement" with your child that describes acceptable usage and consequences you will have with the child if the agreement is broken. All too often we are unfortunately dealing with issues concerning competition with popularity over "likes" and being "friended" as well as self-esteem and self harm issues over negative cyberbullying posts.

Our policy at Mount Carmel Area is that students are not allowed to access or post to any social media sites during the school day. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in electronic device usage violation, Mount Carmel Area School Board Policy #237. We also have a bullying/cyberbullying policy, Mount Carmel Area School Board Policy #249, that spells out expectations and consequences for bullying issues.

If you feel your son or daughter is dealing with any bullying issue, whether on social media or in school, please do not hesitate to call the guidance or principal office.

Sincerely,

MCA Administration

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