

## **INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND CONSEQUENCES**

As the use of digital technology becomes more prevalent throughout our schools, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is committed to helping students learn the responsible use of such technology in a safe and appropriate manner. This document serves as a reminder to parents and students that cell phones, cameras, video cameras, websites and other means of transmitting electronic data can be disruptive and/or harmful, with respect to themselves, other students and staff, as well as the overall school environment. The following information has been developed with the safety of all students and staff in mind.

### **CYBER BULLYING**

Cyber Bullying is the use of electronic information and communication devices to willfully and repeatedly harm either a person or persons through the medium of electronic text, photos, or videos. Examples of this behavior include but are not limited to:

- Sending/posting false, cruel, hurtful or vicious messages/comments
- Creating websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures, and jokes ridiculing others.
- Breaking into an email account and sending vicious or embarrassing materials to others.
- Engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information and forwarding that information to others.
- Posting of a student picture without their permission.

Bullying of this nature creates a hostile, disruptive environment on the school campus and is a violation of the student's and staff member's right to be safe and secure. Actions deliberately threatening, harassing, intimidating an individual or group of individuals, placing an individual in reasonable fear of harm or damaging the individual's property; or disrupting the orderly operation of the school, will not be tolerated.

### **INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The fundamental principles behind these policies are that students should never do anything that harms another student or prevents them from learning. Any use of technological media that interrupts with a student's right to learn will not be tolerated. Electronic media includes, but is not limited to: social networking sites, chat rooms and discussion groups, instant messaging, text messaging, computers, cell phones and personal digital devices, digital cameras, cell phone cameras, and web cams. As new technologies emerge, they too may be included with the above forms of electronic communication. Examples of this behavior include but are not limited to:

- Sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of sexually explicit, graphic, or disruptive nature on any device is prohibited on a school campus.
- If the conduct occurs off school grounds and causes or threatens to cause a substantial disruption at school or interferes with the rights of students or school staff to be secure, school administration may impose consequences. The Administration may also report the Cyber Bullying or Harassment to the police.

## **CONSEQUENCES - INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Education Codes 48900.4 and 48900 (r), strictly prohibit harassment or bullying of any kind and such behavior is subject to consequences, including possible expulsion.

- Sexually explicit material that is transmitted electronically may result in parents or police being notified, and that material may be reported as suspected child abuse or neglect.
- All students involved in the transmission and/ or possession of such images or text may be disciplined under California Education Code 48900 (i): Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- If reasonable suspicion exists that a student has been involved in possessing or transmitting such material, the electronic device involved may be confiscated and searched by school officials.
- The transmission of such material involving another student may be punished under California Education Code 48900 (r): Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel.
- Additionally, Education Code 48900 (k) states that any disruption of school activities or otherwise willful defiance of the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties can also lead to suspension

*\*\*\* Education Codes 48900.4 “Harassment, threats, or intimidation creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment”*

*\*\*\*Education Code 48900 (k) “Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties”*

*\*\*\*Education Code 48900 (i) “Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity*

*\*\*\* Education Code 48900 (r) “Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (k) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel”*

## **ACTION STEPS TO RESPOND TO BULLYING OR HARASSMENT**

**Any student who receives such an image or message against their will should:**

- Inform a school official immediately.
- Save the evidence. Print the online harassing text if possible.
- Identify the Bully.
- Clearly tell the Bully to stop.
- Ignore the bully by leaving the online environment and/or blocking communications.
- File a complaint with the Internet or Cell Phone Company.
- Contact the Bully’s parents.
- Contact the police.