Joseph Rose

Mrs. Silva

English 12

2 November 2017

<div align="center">A Cyberbullying Curriculum</div>

CART is a modern school teaching modern subjects in modern classrooms to modern students for a modern world. In this modern world, technology has improved the way people communicate and presents a lot of freedom. However, with the freedom comes people who abuse it. Online harassment has become far more prominent in the digital age. If the world changes, then education must change to help prepare students for those changes. CART administrators and teachers should implement a CART-wide curriculum that draws awareness to cyber-bullying and its effects on others, as well as attention to established foundations created to stop cyber-bullying.

CART should assist in teaching about cyber-bullying the same way other schools talk about regular bullying because it has become far more prominent and CART is known for teaching modern subjects in modern classrooms. Research has shown that the number of people who have admitted to being cyber-bullied has been on the rise since 2007 (Patchin and Hinduja, 2016). With this rise in cyber-bullying, it makes sense that CART, being a very technical and modern school, should expand its curriculum for all classes to better prepare students for the dangers that come with new social media and Internet usage. Cyber-bullying is described as "bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyber-bullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content" (U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services, 2017). This broad definition of platforms includes very popular forms of media that many classes teach students how to use. A cyber-bullying unit would go well with teaching students how to use these platforms. The best way for CART to stay a modern school is to teach others about a modern problem.

CART's curriculum should include cyber-bullying because it would go a long way in preventing future cyber-bullying incidents and protecting the school's reputation. Last month, several students in the district made racist and offensive post on Twitter (Rodriguez-Delgado, 2017). While punishments were quickly given out and the incident passed, that event paints an image about the district as a whole. A unit in cyber-bullying would go a long way to prevent students from making posts that would be perceived as hateful. It may not prevent intentional hate, but it would be beneficial in the long run to keep CART's reputation intact. Tyler Clementi was tormented by his college roommate when he recorded Tyler in a private moment for thousands to see. (Tyler Clementi Foundation, 2014). His roommate was unaware that what he was doing was wrong and faced jail time. Simple acts that many may not see as wrong or just see as a little fun, may end up hurting others far worse than imaginable. A cyber-bullying unit would talk about all the forms of cyber-bullying and help students tell the difference between a little fun and hurting others. A better education would help all students be better people online and not point the blame toward administrators.

All CART classes should include a cyber-bullying unit because it could provide students with the information they need to deal with cyber-bullying, should they be experiencing it and don't know what to do. Matt Ivester listed several incidents of people who were cyber-bullied and of several organizations formed in response. Also, he goes through several steps that people should take if they are cyber-bullied, see cyber-bullying, or unintentionally do cyber-bully.

Teenagers are far more susceptible to the trauma they face and are more prone to drastic responses. A unit in cyber-bullying for all classes would prepare students to help themselves and others should the situation arise. Organizations such as the Tyler Clementi Foundation or Cybersmile are "committed to tackling all forms of digital abuse and bullying online" (Cybersmile Foundation, 2017). Teaching students about these organizations could provide a support group for those who are afraid to come to adults. Not only would teaching this stop future cyber-bullying, it would help those who currently are suffering from its effects.

The future is defined by the education we present. If we prepare students for the dangers of cyberbullying, we can ensure that students will be ready to respond safely and responsibly. It would also go a long way to prevent many unintentional incidents that would reflect poorly on the district. CART is designed with a modern curriculum in mind and adding a cyberbullying unit would be beneficial to all classes. Hopefully, this one addition to the curriculum will improve how others will interact online and make the Internet a better place to be in the future.

Works Cited

Cybersmile Foundation, the. "Who We Are – Cybersmile." *Cybersmile*, 2017,

www.cybersmile.org/who-we-are.

Ivester, Matt. *Lol…OMG: What Every High School Student Needs to Know About Online

Reputation Management, Digital Citizenship, and Cyberbullying*. Serra Knight, 2012.

Patchin, Justin W, and Sameer Hinduja. *Cyberbullying Research Center*, 2005,

cyberbullying.org/.

Rodriguez-Delgado, Cresencio. "'Let's Race Our Slaves.' Were These Messages Sent by Clovis

Unified Students?" *The Fresno Bee*, The Fresno Bee, 30 Sept. 2017,

www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article176383386.html

.Tyler Clementi Foundation, the. "About the Tyler Clementi Foundation." *Tyler Clementi

Foundation*, Tyler Clementi Foundation, 2014, tylerclementi.org/about/.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "What Is Cyberbullying?"

https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html. U.S. Federal

Government, 18 Sept. 2017. Web.