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Dear Parents:

We want to alert you as to the growing national problem of cyber-bullying and ask for your help in monitoring your student's behavior. The increasing incidence of students being antagonized by other students through text messaging, internet postings and other electronic media is dangerous and damaging. There have been many recent news accounts of students who have died or been injured as a result of electronic abuse. We are committed to preventing such occurrences.

We want you to be aware of this situation and understand that bullying in any form, including cyber-bullying, will not be tolerated. Where cyber-bullying occurs in violation of school rules, students will be subject to discipline. If the cyber-bullying is accompanied by an intent to cause fear, cyber-bullying can also result in misdemeanor criminal charges.

Cyber-bullying means simply bullying electronically. It includes transmission of communications that harass, intimidate or threaten other students by means of texts, sounds, or images on the internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies, using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device.

Many times cyber-bullying violates State and Federal laws that protect students against discrimination or harassment based upon sex, gender, race, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age or sexual orientation. School Districts throughout our county as well as your District Attorney's Office, treat these protections very seriously.

Also, it is important for parents and students to understand that even where cyber-bullying originates away from school, the student may still be held responsible if it is sufficiently serious and disrupts educational activities at school.

We ask that you talk to your children about cyber-bullying and make sure that they are aware of the harm that can result. If you become aware of a situation in which your child has been a witness or victimized by cyber-bullying, please contact your local law enforcement agency or your school administrator.

Sincerely,

Joyce E Dudley
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