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CART Cyberbullying Prevention

People are getting cyberbullied daily on applications that are being used every day. The Center for Research and Technology administration and teachers should be implementing a curriculum throughout all the labs that shows the students and staff awareness to cyberbullying and its effect on others, and to bring attention to the foundations established to stop cyberbullying. Students and staff need to become aware in what people say online and what not to say online. They will also need to learn what others have experienced when they were being cyberbullied, as well as what some consequences of cyberbullying are. Students should also be aware in the differences between the online and offline world. Therefore, CART administration and teachers should start implementing a curriculum that will spread awareness to students and staff about cyberbullying and its effects on others, as well as bringing to light the foundations that help prevent cyberbullying.

The age of social media is upon us and we need to keep it a safe environment for the next generations. In the book *lol... OMG* by Matt Ivester, he talks about how people use different resources to talk bad about people and companies, "Review might even contain totally false allegations... the person who wrote the review could be guilty of libel... used a pseudonym when posting the review... to get justice can be a very difficult and expensive proposition" (21). For example, Ivester explains that even if the guy had reported him to the authorities for lying about his restaurants and giving false reviews, it would have been too

difficult to find the person to hold him accountable. Also, people have many ways to hide themselves today in this current generation that it is almost impossible to track people unless there are alternative things that make it easier to find them. Cyberbullying has become a very active threat to our community and student across the nation can find themselves cyberbullied any day for something that they did. Cyberbullying has now moved to high schools and in some cases, middle schools or junior high, "JucyCampus.com shut down... had 1,000,000 unique visitors coming to the site every month... *Radar Magazine* did a piece that was called *shockingly nasty*... named names, and they were racist, homophobic, misogynistic, vulgar, sexually explicit, deeply personal..." Ivester (93). People online can be very rude, inconsiderate of others and can be so mean without thinking about the consequences of their actions.

Cyberbullying is one of the leading causes of teen health danger. Teens are suffering from depression that has been connected to cyberbullying. Social media applications are also in part of cyberbullying, teens messaging their peer's mean and terrible words causing some to fall to depression and potentially commit suicide. The article website *Scientific American* talks about how cyberbullying is directly linked to teen depression and suicides, "investigated the effects of cyberbullying on health in teens ages 12 to 18... There were consistent associations between exposure to cyberbullying and increased likelihood of depression..." Stephanie Pappas, *Scientific America*.

Some people would say that there is no such thing as cyberbullying because of freedom of speech. But, as people may have freedom of speech, they do not have freedom of consequences. People think they will be able to say anything they want just because they are not right in front of them, but everyone is accountable for what they say whether or not they are on the online or offline world. For example, there are many foundations that are

trying to prevent these people from being cyberbullied, "the 14-year-old Missouri girl committed suicide after an adult neighbor... carried out cruel hoax... The fake Josh initially befriended Megan but later cruelly told her he didn't want to be friends with her... responded by hanging herself" CBS. Megan's family set up a foundation dedicated to preventing cyberbullying so that no one else has to suffer the way Megan and her family has. These foundations helped to prevent other families from being as devastated from these events if their child was going through something similar.

Thus, the students and staff of CART should become aware of all the dangers that cyberbullying brings and the harm that it can cause to others and to protect and spread awareness of the foundations trying to stop and prevent cyberbullying. Students and the general public should become aware of all the dangers that cyberbullying have including depression, suicide, or even just general sadness. Also, people have been affected by cyberbullying and ended up taking their life because of how much bullying they took from others. People were also affected by cyberbullying even if they were not personally cyberbullied, if they were the parents or even a friend of the victim it could have a big effect on them. CART should implement these curriculums for cyberbullying so that students and even staff will not be cyberbullied and will know what to do if someone they know is getting cyberbullied.

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