

Adopted: August 14, 2014
Revised: February 8, 2021

COMMUNITY OF PEACE ACADEMY POLICY No. 5.8.1 CYBER-BULLYING/PROHIBITED USE OF TECHNOLOGY

I. PURPOSE

Community of Peace Academy strives to provide a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students in school buildings, on school grounds, at school sponsored activities and when using school equipment and technology. Bullying has a harmful, social, physical, psychological and academic impact on bullies, victims and bystanders. Community of Peace Academy consistently and vigorously addresses bullying in all of its forms, so that there is no disruption to the learning process or learning environment.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Community of Peace Academy's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed on campus or off campus, may not be used for the purpose of harassment of any kind. All forms of harassment over the Internet, commonly referred to as "cyber-bullying", are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and Community of Peace Academy's acceptable computer use policy and procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Use of technology" includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Sending or posting e-mail messages;
2. Sending text messages;
3. Sending or posting pictures or images;
4. Website postings;
5. Social media sites;
6. Video conferencing and on-line classrooms

B. "Sexting" includes, but is not limited to, the act of sending, receiving, viewing, or reading any sexually explicit text messages, photo messages, video messages, or voice messages. Sexting is considered inappropriate for the school setting and is

therefore prohibited in communications involving any Community of Peace Academy technology. Sexting may also be disciplined if the action constitutes cyber-bullying as defined below.

- C. “Threats” are actions that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to cause a present or future harm.
- D. “Cyber-bullying” includes the use of technology to:
 - 1. Communicate a threat;
 - 2. Stalk; or
 - 3. Terrorize students or staff; or
 - 4. Other speech that creates a hostile environment based on race, gender, religion or sexual origin for students or staff; or
 - 5. Any other form of communication that causes:
 - a. A substantial disruption of or material interference with the work of the school;
 - b. A communication that substantially interferes with or impinges upon the rights of other students or staff; or
 - c. Violates Community of Peace Academy’s policies prohibiting bullying and harassment.
- E. “Reasonable likelihood of disruption” cyber-bullying as defined above may be disciplined if:
 - 1. The speech creates a foreseeable risk of material disruption to the work of the school; or
 - 2. The speech creates a foreseeable risk of interference with the rights of others.

IV. MONITORING OF STUDENT INTERNET USE, RECORDS, AND FILES

- A. Community of Peace Academy students have a limited expectation of privacy on Community of Peace Academy’s Internet system or on equipment checked out to a student to use while not on campus. Students should expect routine maintenance and monitoring by technical support and by staff.
- B. An individual search of computer and Internet use records can be conducted by Community of Peace Academy administration if there is reasonable suspicion that the

student has violated Community of Peace Academy's policy, including policies against cyber-bullying and sexting.

V. RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF CYBER-BULLYING

The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyber-bullying. Students and community members who believe they have been the victims of misuses of technology described in this policy should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the material should be printed and brought to the attention of the school administrator.

VI. DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary action may include the loss of computer privileges, suspension, or expulsion for verified perpetrators of cyber-bullying or sexting. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, the administration will report such crimes to local law enforcement officials.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §121A.0695 (School Board Policy; Prohibiting Intimidation and Bullying)

Cross Reference: Policy 5.4.2 Bullying Prevention and Response