

Social Media Reminders for CCRSB Students, Parents & Guardians



At the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) we consider our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts a digital extension of our physical offices. These tools give us the means and opportunity to reach more students, parents and guardians at one time than any other communication tool. We also know that more and more students, parents and guardians rely on the Internet and social media sites to gather information important to them. With this in mind, it is important to remember some basic tenets of responsible and respectful use.

All CCRSB schools abide by the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct calls on all members of the CCRSB community to be respectful, kind and understanding to each other. These same basic ideas should be applied when using the Internet and social media websites. (You can read CCRSB's Code of Conduct on our website at www.ccrsb.ca, click on "Document Depot," "Education Services".)

If you are going to use social media, there are some basic things to remember:

- Students and school staff members are people, not profiles. Treat them with respect and kindness while online.
- Once you write something or post something online, it's there forever. Even if you regret what you did and delete it, it still may not be gone. The hurt that you cause someone else can follow them, and you, for years to come.
- Repeatedly posting negative comments or pictures about someone else to **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube** or any other social media site or sending text messages that are mean, intimidate or embarrass another person could be **cyberbullying**.
- The **CCRSB Code of Conduct** prohibits behaviour that makes fun of, threatens, intimidates or bullies another person face-to-face or electronically. If what you post online, in a text message or via email has a negative impact on another student or CCRSB staff member, you may be subject to discipline at school and, depending on the situation, criminal charges. This applies to information you post or send whether you are at school or somewhere else; during or after school hours.
- You are not anonymous on social media. It might feel that way sometimes, but what you write and post reflects directly on you.

It's also important to remember that if you are having a problem at school, the best way to resolve it is in conversation with your teacher, principal, guidance counselor or another adult you trust. For parents and guardians, you should always address issues or concerns with your school first; the next step is to contact the Family of Schools Supervisor for your area. Posting disparaging comments to social media sites will not help resolve the issue faster and can often lead to larger problems in the future. (You can find the name of your Family of Schools Supervisor on our website under "Schools" then "Families of Schools".)

Social media presents all members of the CCRSB community – from students to teachers to parents & guardians to administrators – with the opportunity to connect in new and exciting ways. Let's all make sure that when we use social media we are doing it responsibly, with respect for ourselves and for others.

To learn more about recognizing and preventing cyberbullying, visit the Kids Help Phone website at www.kidshelpphone.ca or call 1-800-668-6868.

