

WOHS STANDS AGAINST CYBER-BULLYING

WOHS Students and Parents:

We at West Orange High School are always concerned about the rights of our students, and are dedicated to making our school - whether in-person, fully virtual, or hybrid - a warm, safe, supportive learning environment.

Virtual classes can create additional concerns, especially with respect to student privacy, and we write to reiterate our expectations.

Just as in the time before COVID, we continue to prohibit unauthorized images, photos, and recordings of other students or staff, and have substantial disciplinary consequences if there are unauthorized photos or recordings that are published or shared, such as on social media.

We are aware that in some schools where students have already started virtually, there have been instances where students took screen captures or photos of others who were in a virtual class, shared and/or posted those pictures on social media, sometimes with hurtful and abusive comments. These behaviors and postings would certainly represent a violation of our code of conduct, might violate the HIB law, and might even constitute illegal cyber-bullying.

At West Orange High School, we will not tolerate that kind of inhumane and belittling behavior. Our students deserve a safe, nurturing environment, free of abuse and harassment, and we are dedicated to making sure they get it.

Students, first we remind you of our rules. You know that you should not and may not capture images or videos of your classmates or teachers without their permission, and you may not post or share such images or videos. You also know that you would never want others to do that to you, and we ask that you treat others as you wish to be treated. Please be kind to each other.

However, if you are subjected to this behavior or become aware of someone else being mistreated, please let the Deans know ASAP.

Parents/guardians, we ask that you discuss this with your children, encourage them to do the right thing and to avoid negative behaviors, and monitor your children and their online interactions as much as possible. Please contact us if you become aware of any situation where a student may have become a victim of the kind of mistreatment we discuss above, so we can do our best to address the situation.

We look forward to a great school year, whether remote, hybrid, or in-person, and we want to create and maintain a safe, welcoming, non-abusive environment in which all of our students can thrive, learn, and grow.

Mountaineers, we are better and stronger together!

Sincerely,

Hayden Moore, Principal

The HS Disciplinary Team (with student last name)

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