

BDOLE LEARNING CENTER

Effective Date: 03/23/2020	583 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOL
Date: 03/23/2020 Revisions:	Approved by: Bdote Board of Directors

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations regarding student use of social media.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board recognizes that social media can be a useful tool for students in the educational process. Safe, caring, and effective learning environments depend on students demonstrating respect for themselves and others and using social media in a manner that will not detract from the learning process.

III. STUDENT USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A. Bdote Learning Center may provide access to designated social media sites deemed appropriate for students, solely for bona fide instructional purposes, on Bdote Learning Center computers, tablets, or other mobile devices.

B. Whether the communication occurs on or off school grounds or equipment, Bdote Learning Center prohibits communication(s) by students over social media that do or reasonably can be anticipated to create a hostile educational environment or substantially interfere with another student's educational opportunities, benefits, performance, or with a student's or staff member's physical or psychological well-being, or are threatening or seriously intimidating, or substantially disrupt the school learning environment or the orderly operation of a school.

C. Student misuse of social media that does or reasonably can be anticipated to create a hostile educational environment or substantially interfere with another student's educational opportunities, benefits,

performance, or with a student's or staff member's physical or psychological well-being, or is threatening or seriously intimidating, or substantially disrupts the school learning environment or the orderly operation of a school shall be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

E. Students shall abide by Board Policy, Administrative Regulation, the Student Code of Conduct, and all local, state and federal laws at all times in their use of social media.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Social Media. Any online or Internet based platform that allows interactive communication between persons or entities on social networks, blogs, websites, application software, Internet forums, wikis, and the like.

B. Misuse of Social Media. Whether on or off school grounds or equipment, the use of social media in a manner that demeans, threatens, condemns, humiliates, or berates others, including students and staff, incites violence of any kind, embarrasses, defames, harasses or bullies others, including students and staff (as "harass" and "bully" are defined by school policy or regulation), or in any manner violates the school Code of Conduct, Board Policy or regulation, or local, state or federal laws.

C. Staff or Staff Members. Includes any full or part-time employee, extra-curricular coach or advisor, or volunteer of the Bdote Learning Center.

V. REPORTING MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A. Staff members shall immediately report any misuse of social media to a school administrator for investigation. If the incident involves the safety or security of a student or staff member, law enforcement should be called immediately.

B. Whenever the misuse of social media involves cyber-bullying, the school administrator should complete the investigation as outlined in the school's policy and regulations on cyber-bullying.

C. Administrators shall report all incidents of misuse of social media to the school's Director.

D. If the misuse of social media constitutes a delinquent act, the misuse shall be reported promptly to the responsible law enforcement agency.

E. Students are encouraged to report the misuse of social media, including communications or invitations to communicate with staff members over social media, to a school administrator.

VI. VIOLATION

A. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

B. No student who reports the misuse of social media to a school administrator in good faith shall be the subject of reprisal in any manner. If a student believes he or she is the subject of reprisal, the student and/or his or her parent/guardian is encouraged to report the reprisal immediately to the school's Director.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124D.10 (Charter School Law)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40 to 121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
Tatro v. Univ. of Minnesota, 800 N.W.2d 811, 816 (Minn. Ct. App. 2011)