

May 13, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It has recently been brought to our attention that there are several social networking sites that some of our students have been participating in. These sites are being used in what we feel is inappropriate conduct and we are concerned about the content that is contained within these sites. Some of the comments can be considered cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is the use of Internet services to degrade, insult, harass, threaten, and humiliate others. The abuse may be carried out exclusively online, or it may be an extension of physical bullying that occurs before, during or after school. It is particularly damaging because it can be unrelenting for the target since it can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The anonymity of the Internet allows bullies to contact their target with less fear of retaliation than with traditional bullying.

Please know that the South Country Central School District is taking this matter very seriously as we have a zero tolerance policy. We have taken steps to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. The local authorities have been notified and our school support staff is available for all students and parents should they need assistance.

We would like to encourage parents to please be aware of and monitor your child's Internet use. As a concerned school district we would like to inform the community that these types of behaviors can be considered a criminal matter and not be taken lightly.

Thank you for your support in dealing with this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Ginty
Principal

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