

Prevention Issues of Technology at MISSION VALLEY: USD 330

Prevention: Our school does little to prevent injuries related to technology use. The computer lab does host comfy, adjustable chairs. The monitors and keyboards are adjustable as well. Other than these few modifications most equipment is standard.

Policies: Our policies regarding cyber bullying and harassment are published through our student manual given to each family at enrollment and also reiterated in the user policy signed by each student and parent at the beginning of the year. It states that inappropriate use of technology could result in loss of privilege in using the district network and may result in academic penalties, including the risk of suspension or expulsion. The district also has the authority to monitor all accounts including the child's account.

Problems: There have in fact been a few problems outside of the school setting. On three occasions this year, a student or staff member has reported cyber bullying or harassment on a social networking site. The problems originated off site and did not cause disruption at school, but the principal did elude that he visited with the students and parents involved to make them aware of the circumstances. Our school does block all social networking sites.

Personal Awareness of Problems: I do know of one instance in which my daughter was viewing another girl's wall on Facebook and noticed a particularly rude comment from one student regarding another, making statements like "she is so stupid, I don't know why she came here". There were some other rude and cruel statements so I printed the conversation off and gave it to the school principal. The girl's father happens to work at school so he called both the girl and her father in to share his knowledge of the message with them. The principal didn't have much ground to stand as it occurred from the home and not in the school setting. Her dad said he would take care of it.

Greatest Problems with Technology Use at School: Clear guidelines regarding school policies and procedures have not been established. Acceptable Use Policies are not clearly written or are not inclusive to a wide variety of needs. Proper technology behavior needs to be modeled and expected from all students; appropriate consequences should be clearly stated, understood, and followed through with if proper behavior is not used. Student behavior should be closely monitored.

What Can Be Done at School: Institute formal policies for dealing with any cyber bullying, slandering, vandalization of online materials, etc. Establish clear guidelines and be sure students fully understand the consequences when these guidelines are abused.

Personal Responsibility:

1. Inform parents of school policy regarding technology.
2. Teach students (and host parent programs if necessary) the basics of safe and knowledgeable Web and technology behavior. Reinforce consequences when necessary.
3. Pay attention to student use of technology and address issues that are concerning as well as reinforce positive technology behaviors. Host a Technology Night!