



MONROE
CITY SCHOOLS

Social Media - Just Say “No!”

(Or at Least be Smart About it!)

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We All Have Social Media



Monroe City School Policy

A few of the important comments...

- Furthermore, School Board computers and the network shall not be used for commercial, political or religious purposes.
- Use of the School Board's technology network for any illegal activities shall also be prohibited . Illegal activities include (a) tampering with computer hardware or software, (b) unauthorized entry into computers and files (hacking), (c) knowledgeable vandalism or destruction of equipment, and (d) deletion of computer files. Such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law.



Tip - To Find Policy

Open the MCS website

Go to "I am Looking for"

Find Board Policies

Search for "Computer Use"

Professionalism

- Monroe City School employees are personally responsible for the hosted content they publish online. Be mindful that what you publish on social media channels will be public for a long time—protect your privacy.
 - When posting online, please remember that you are an employee of MCS and representative of your colleagues, students, parents and the school community.
 - Your online behavior should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect and consideration that you use face-to-face.
 - Please use correct spelling, punctuation, etc., on your posts as they do ultimately reflect the school district.
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Think About...

- Do **not** post photos or movies of fellow employees without their permission.
 - Do **not** use photos or movies taken at school without permission.
 - Do **not** post photos or movies that contain students without parental consent. Monroe is an “opt out” district but that policy strictly covers official MCS websites and its subsidiaries. The policy does not cover individual, personal social media accounts!
 - There are many websites that allow users to share personally created movies. You are responsible for all you do, say and post online including videos. Anything posted online should represent you in a **professional manner** as others will see you as connected to MCS. It disrupts learning when teachers, employees and staff post videos with questionable content.
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Consider This...

- MCS staff and employees are personally responsible for all comments and information and hosted content they publish online. Be mindful that things such as Tweets and Status Updates will be visible and public for a long time.
 - By posting comments, having online conversations, etc. on social media sites you are broadcasting to the world, be aware that even with the strictest privacy settings, what you 'say' online should be within the bounds of professional discretion.
 - Comments expressed via social networking pages under the impression of a 'private conversation' may still end up being shared into a more public domain, even with privacy settings on maximum.
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Consider This...

- Comments related to MCS, its employees, staff and/events related to MCS, should always meet the highest standards of professional discretion. When posting, even on the strictest settings, staff should act on the assumption that all postings are in the public domain.
 - Before posting photographs and videos, permission should be sought from the subject where possible. This is especially the case where photographs of professional colleagues are concerned.
 - Before posting personal photographs, thought should be given as to whether the images reflect on your professionalism.
 - Photographs relating to alcohol or tobacco use may be deemed inappropriate. Remember, your social networking site is an extension of your personality, and an extension of your professional life and classroom. If it would seem inappropriate to put a certain photograph on the wall, then it should be considered inappropriate to post online.
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MANDATORY!!!

- MCS employees are not permitted to solicit or accept “Friend” Requests from enrolled MCS students on any personal Social Media Account. This includes student’s accounts and MCS employee personal accounts.
- MCS employees should not actively encourage students (K12) enrolled at MCS to create Social Media Accounts of any kind.
- No MCS employees should choose to utilize Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or any other Social Media Platform to provide classroom information to individual students and parents. This should be done through the OnCourse Teacher Page, Remind, or Google Classroom, only! Post must be exclusively about classroom or school activities.

Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying by a MCS student directed toward another MCS student or school staff member is conduct that disrupts both a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment.
- MCS prohibits acts of cyberbullying by MCS students through the use of any MCS owned, operated, and supervised technologies. The school principal or designee may report allegations of cyberbullying to law enforcement authorities.
- Any act online, the Internet or through electronic devices (cellular phones, tablets) that deliberately threatens, harasses, intimidates an individual or group of individuals; places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property; has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school is considered cyberbullying.
- Any student or school staff member that believes he/she has or is being subjected to cyberbullying, as well as any person who has reason to believe a student or school staff member has knowledge or reason to believe another pupil or school staff member is being subjected to or has been subjected to cyberbullying shall immediately make a report to the school principal or designee.
- Let me restate, we **MUST** protect our students!

Sexting! It Happens!

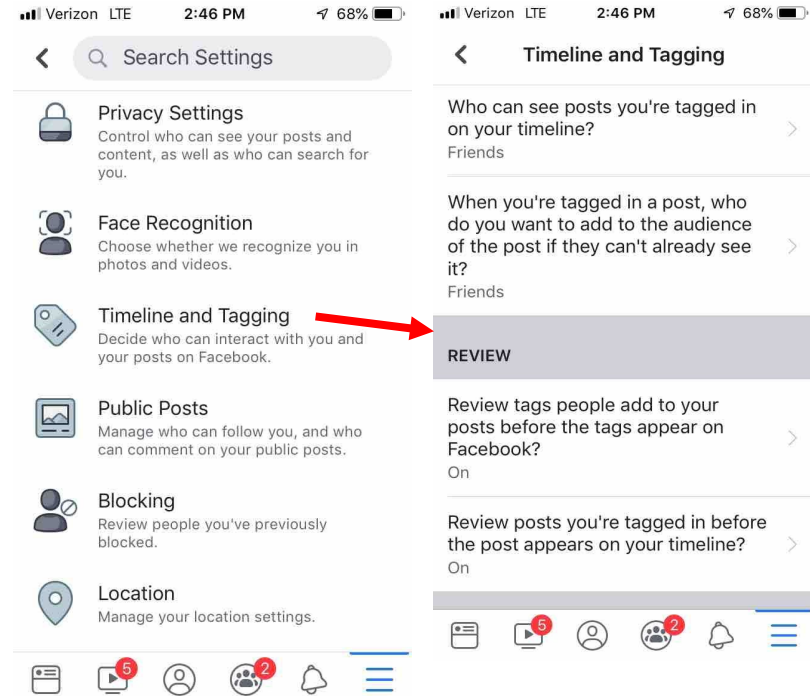
- According to Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.1.1., in Louisiana, people younger than 17 are prohibited from knowingly and voluntarily using a computer, cell phone, or other telecommunications device to transmit indecent images they take of themselves. It's also a crime for someone younger than 17 to have or transmit an indecent image that was transmitted by another person younger than 17 who took the image of him or herself.
- **Juvenile Penalties.** A teen who commits a sexting crime (Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.1.1) faces a number of possible penalties for a first offense. Louisiana juvenile courts have broad discretion in the types of penalties they can impose. For example, the court can order the teen to pay a fine, perform community service, or stay under house arrest, or it can impose other punishments as it deems appropriate. For second or third sexting offenses, more significant penalties such as higher fines and up to six months in jail are possible.
- **Adult penalties.** Louisiana is one of the handful of states that define a juvenile as anyone younger than 17. This means that a person who is 17 or older could face adult penalties if convicted of a sexting-related crime. Adult penalties for these types of crimes are much more significant. For example, someone convicted of indecent behavior with juveniles as a first-time offender faces up to \$50,000 in fines and between five and 20 years in prison. You can read more about Louisiana's adult criminal penalties by reading [Louisiana Felony Crimes by Class and Sentences](#) and [Louisiana Misdemeanor Crimes by Class and Sentences](#).

Student Teacher Communication

- MCS employees are not permitted to communicate via text or email with students of the MCS district except within specific guidelines as established by policy -
 1. Through third-party, monitored communication (Google Classroom, EduLastic, Remind, etc.)
 2. As set aside concerning sponsorship/coaching of extra-curricular activity and the list of participants/recipients and reasoning must be approved by the
Principal
- If the program is provided by MCS, it meets the requirements of the law! (Unless of course law changes immediately!)

Some Common Sense Reminders...

- Do **NOT** post during the day while you are on MCS time!
- Be careful what you repost or link to! It may seem completely innocent, but hidden in the comments may be words, phrases, or ideas that reflect badly of you! You may not have meant anything, but somebody with a vendetta may take that and run with it.
- It is a good personal policy to set your settings in Facebook and other social media outlets to allow you to know when someone tags you in a post or posts a photo of you.



If you have to ask
yourself if it is
acceptable,
the answer is “**NO!**”