



The Dignity for All Students Act ("The Dignity Act")

Prohibition of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. Classical Charter Schools has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for scholars to learn and achieve high academic standards. Therefore, it is the policy of CCS to prohibit bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any person on school property, on the school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or by the use of electronic technology. CCS also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about an act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

Definition of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

As used in this policy, "bullying, harassment, or intimidation" means intentional conduct, repeatedly over time, including verbal, physical, or written conduct or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is: motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability; or, threatening or seriously intimidating; and, occurs on CCS property, the school bus, a school activity or event, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school or the school community.

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, internet, tablet, wireless hand-held device, or any other similar communication device or through social media. Reference our 'Social Media Policy' below for more information regarding appropriate use of social media.

Administrative Response to Claims of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

Upon a report of scholar bullying, harassment, or intimidation from either a parent, scholar or staff member, the Dean of Student must begin an investigation within 24 hours and document the incident(s) and all findings appropriately in Jupiter. The Dean of Students must utilize the bullying checklist to determine whether the act is bullying or cyberbullying. If the investigation finds that a scholar(s) has been bullying, harassing, or intimidating a scholar(s), the Dean of Students must follow our Code of Conduct in disciplining the scholar(s). In addition, contingent upon parent permission and/or severity of the incident(s), the Dean of Students must create a concrete plan of action to support the scholar(s). This may include referral for short-term counseling, conflict-resolution, or mediation, following an incident.

Social Media

Scholars are responsible for their own behavior when communicating with social media, both on and off school property, and will be held accountable for the content of the communications that they transmit or post. Classical Charter Schools does not permit scholars to use their personal social media accounts while on campus, at school-sponsored events and field-trips, or on the school bus. Scholars are responsible for complying with Classical Charter School's Code of Conduct. Examples of inappropriate conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Posting or publishing any insensitive or inappropriate information or content on any social media and viewing any insensitive or inappropriate social media content.
- Communicating with teachers or administrators via personal social media.
- Impersonating or assuming the identity of any other individual while using social media.
- Posting or publishing any information about one's self or another individual that is confidential or of a private nature. This includes posting contact information or any other information that is private.
- Using any device capable of capturing video, pictures, or audio to record or take pictures of any other individual without express consent and permission and posting any pictures taken in the school setting, even if taken with permission
- Scholars must immediately comply with any request that offending materials be removed from any social media platform.

A scholar's use of social media is a privilege, not a right, and the violation of any provision of this policy will result in the restriction of a scholar's social media access and/or the imposition of additional appropriate consequences, including both school-based consequences and referrals to law enforcement.

This social media policy applies any time scholars are on school property, under the supervision of school staff, and when social media is being used away from school premises, in a manner that impacts the orderly operation of the school or school community. Misuse of social media that impacts fellow scholars will be subject to school-based consequences whether scholar(s) used it on or off school property.