

Lodi Unified School District

Social Networking Guidelines

In the past, inappropriate use of social media by Lodi Unified School District (hereinafter referred to as “Lodi Unified” or “District”) students, including those participating in athletics and other co-curricular activities, has resulted in suspension from school, and suspension from practices, games, and other events. In an effort to foster a safe school environment, lawful online conduct, good sportsmanship, and to deter the need to enforce discipline, Lodi Unified recommends the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by all students. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Tumblr.

The District respects the right of its students to use social media. However, it is important for all students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Lodi Unified students who use social media are asked to remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Lodi Unified community.

BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for Lodi Unified students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. They are not intended, and should not be interpreted by any student or administrator, as allowing unlawful infringement on any student’s online exercise of free expression. As a Lodi Unified student, you should:

1. **Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof.** Students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if you diligently monitor your privacy settings, it’s best to assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents, and strangers. It is strongly recommended that you do not give your password(s) to anyone (other than your legal guardian).
2. **Avoid Posting Confidential Information.** Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is **NOT** recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.
3. **Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles.** Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current, and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.

4. **Avoid Posting Illegal Activities.** Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile, but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future. Lodi Unified students should avoid incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances.
5. **Avoid Bullying/Threats of Violence.** While Lodi Unified students have a right to free speech, that right is **NOT** unlimited. Bullying is a serious problem and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to depression, discrimination, violence and suicide. The online environment has drastically changed the nature of bullying, and students should carefully consider how their communications will impact others. In addition, all students should avoid communications/postings that make a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
6. **Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarizing.** Again, all information posted on social media sites is considered public information. It may be viewed by third parties and used against you. It is best to assume that anything you post may be seen by your school, your parents, and your peers.
7. **Potential for Discipline By School Authorities.** There are many categories of online conduct that, if they relate to school activity or attendance, and if they violate the Education Code and/or Lodi Unified School District rules governing student conduct, may subject a student to discipline by District authorities. Every allegation of student misconduct is evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances involved, including online activities.

It is the District's expectation that all students will represent the District schools in the best possible manner, upholding the high standards and character that exemplify the proud traditions of the schools of the Lodi Unified School District.



Acknowledgement

I have read Lodi Unified School District's Social Networking Guidelines.

Student – Printed Name

Date: _____

Student - Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian – Print Name

Date: _____

Parent – Signature