

NHCS Students and Parents,

This week, NHCS was made aware of students engaging in conduct using social media that may be considered cyber-bullying. NHCS strives to foster an environment that is welcoming to all students and prohibits all forms of bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, and discrimination by its students.

NHCS has shared all of the reports, complaints, and evidence of cyberbullying with law enforcement in order to address the matter under North Carolina criminal law. NHCS will continue to share any additional information with law enforcement.

In addition to North Carolina criminal law, NHCS prohibits bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, and discrimination by its students in NHCS policies. Bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, and discrimination may include conduct such as: spreading secrets or rumors; sending threatening messages; sending sexual material of others without permission; making derogatory comments about others; etc.

NHCS encourages parents and students to review NHCS bullying, harassment, and discrimination policies. NHCS policies that prohibit bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, and discrimination include:

- **NHCS Policy 8410** - “Policies, Rules, and Procedures Relative to Student Discipline in the New Hanover County Schools”
- **NHCS Policy 1710/4020/7230** - “Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law”
- **NHCS Policy: 1725/4035/7236** - “Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process”

Reporting

Individuals may report bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, and discrimination to NHCS utilizing the [NHCS Concern and Resolution Process Center](#) available at www.nhcs.net or the [Say Something app](#). Individuals may also report to school staff, administrators, or law enforcement.

NHCS strongly encourages individuals to: save evidence of cyberbullying; not respond or retaliate; block the account.

Support

NHCS strongly encourages individuals to reach out to their school counselor or social worker for mental health and emotional support if they are having difficulty as a result of bullying, harassment, and discrimination. In addition, NHCS is reviewing opportunities to encourage students to engage with each other in an acceptable, tolerant manner.

Retaliation

NHCS prohibits acts of retaliation against others for reporting bullying, harassment, and discrimination.