

# The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn

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Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent  
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator  
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

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July 22, 2025

Dear Dover-Sherborn Families & Staff,

I am writing to share an update on the investigation involving student use of digital media and to outline next steps for continued partnership and support.

As I described in a [letter to the community](#) in May, the District responded last fall to a report that middle school students had saved and shared photos of their classmates online. While the images were not explicit in nature, the behavior raised serious concerns. The School and District addressed the matter swiftly and thoroughly in collaboration with [law enforcement](#), launching a comprehensive, independent investigation conducted by a third-party investigator.

As initially reported by the Dover Police Department, the District's investigation confirmed that there is no evidence that students possessed or shared nude photographs of other students. While the police did discover nude images from an unknown source, those individuals were not identified as students. The District has completed its review of this matter.

Our ability to share further details about the investigation and response is limited by the personal privacy protections of students. As a leader committed to transparency, I understand how this can be frustrating, especially when confronted with incomplete and inaccurate information shared by persons with no direct involvement in these events. Nevertheless, I ask our community to honor the integrity of the process, the care with which staff handled the situation, and the privacy of the students and families involved.

We remain committed to supporting all students, and providing opportunities for education, reflection, and responsibility. As a community we must be vigilant about educating our children about social media use, responsible communication, and respect for individual privacy.

We are taking the following steps to reinforce a culture of responsibility and respect in a rapidly evolving digital landscape:

- **Teaching Digital Citizenship:** Through ongoing education, including high quality curriculum and various presentations, we will continue to promote responsible technology use and respectful online behavior.
- **Reinforcing Policies and Practices:** To improve transparency around District policies and relevant laws, including technology use, bullying, and civil rights, we will include a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section in student handbooks and offer information sessions for families.

*The Dover Sherborn Schools share in the mission to inspire, challenge and support all students as they discover and pursue their full potential.*

- **Safeguarding Technology:** We will continue to monitor emerging technology and update our practices, protocols, and policies to align with new legislation to ensure the protection of all students.
- **Building Community Norms:** We will bring together families, educators, and community stakeholders to create [shared expectations](#) for the use of technology and social media in schools, homes, and the community. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Ellen Rowley, Director of Guidance ([rowleye@doversherborn.org](mailto:rowleye@doversherborn.org)).
- **Offering Resources for Families:** Over the past year, we've partnered with local organizations to host multiple events focused on supporting the safe use of cell phones and social media, including Dr. Jill Walsh's presentation [Healthy Relationships with Technology](#). We will continue to offer sessions in the months ahead.
- **Strengthening Partnerships with Parents/Caregivers:** We respectfully ask for your assistance by actively monitoring your child's cell phone and social media use, having open conversations about respectful behavior online, and reporting concerning behavior to police and/or school staff as soon as it arises. Tools like [Pinwheel Phone](#) and [Bark](#), and resources like [Common Sense Media](#) and [Your Brain on Social Media](#) may be helpful.

Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported. We appreciate your continued partnership in helping children use technology responsibly - whether at school, at home, or in the community. Together, we play an essential role in guiding students to make thoughtful and respectful choices in how they engage with technology and interact online.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. J. Wilby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Superintendent