

## **BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS**

As a student at Blooming Prairie High School, you are expected to follow student handbook guidelines, even though an event may happen off school property or after school hours. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by the majority of students in one form or another. Participation in such networks has both positive appeal and potentially negative consequences. It is important the Blooming Prairie High School students be aware of these consequences and exercise appropriate caution if they choose to participate.

\*Students should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, future employers, and college officials, could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes pictures, videos, comments, and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student and our school. This can also be detrimental to a student's future options (i.e. college, profession). Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions of the following, though this list is not meant to be all-inclusive:

- Photos, videos, tweets, retweets, comments, or posters showing the personal use or possession of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.
- Photos, videos, tweets, retweets, comments, or posters that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Photos, videos, tweets, retweets, comments, or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes, but is not limited to, images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding our school, another school, coaches, or teammates; taunting comments aimed at a student, coach, or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, stalking, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).

\*Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including photos, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.

\*If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as those of Blooming Prairie High School. Remember, always present a positive image and do not do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family, or Blooming Prairie High School.

\*In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited and does not equal freedom from consequences. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

**Students, Parents and Guardians**, let it be known that any students in violation of said conduct is subject to consequences to be determined by the Administration, Principal and/or Activities Director. The Minnesota State High School League Student Code of Responsibilities, Bylaw 206.00, is applicable and relevant in all student related issues and concerns in such matters