

ORANGEBURG CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, INC.

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Principal

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Dale Sanders
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Rev. Jeffrey Cila
Board Chairman

March 20, 2025

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Custodians and Guardians;

Subj: Administration and Faculty Concerns Regarding Social Media & Internet Misuse

We are reaching out to you as those who exercise direct control and authority over school-age children in your charge. This year, more so than in years past we are being made aware of the misuse of internet applications (APPS), social media conversations, and specifically group chat among our students / your children. It was about this time last year OCA brought our concerns to your attention. As educators, we are hearing more frequently of students engaging in what can be categorized as **age-inappropriate** conversations, harassment, and in some isolated cases of cyber-bullying. When these activities of the youth become topics among them for conversation in the school it is disruptive, destructive, and conflicts with our Christian atmosphere for academic learning and the discerning of God's Word.

When students are openly discussing online contacts and conversations in the school we are compelled to stop it. However, we do not have any control over what students are doing online outside of school, nor are we going to police their social media activities. That is a parent/custodian/guardian responsibility. You provide the means for them to communicate electronically; texting, group chat, instant messaging, and email through a multitude of devices; smartphones, home computers, tablets, web enabled gaming devices, and smart televisions with browsers. We implore you to monitor and manage your child's online time and activities.

- Please be mindful that when you give your child an internet enabled device you aren't just giving them "Internet Access to the World" – you are actually giving "THE WORLD ACCESS TO YOUR CHILD"! Most content is not age-appropriate and need not be emulated in their young lives.

This problem of age appropriate and unregulated access to communication pathways is again creating friction in school more noticed this year in grades 4th – 9th. In those cases where we become aware of a student conversation in the school that is inappropriate, disruptive to the learning environment, or involves bullying of a student we will intervene by calling you to come to a meeting with your child. The goal is to make certain you are aware and that you must impose some guidance and control. We will follow a process of documenting the meeting and ask that you establish a set of guidelines/constraints on your child's cyberspace activities. Students will also be subject to our discipline policies and this incident will be documented in their Discipline Record. These types of detrimental conversations that demean, target for disrespect, or encourage negative activities against fellow students, faculty or staff that invade the school culture will be followed by a corrective process of detention, probation, suspension, an unfavorable review of any future enrollment application and ultimately expulsion.

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We have your children with us for only a third of the day. The Parent – Student Handbook page 21-22 outlines our current policy of Cell Phone and Mobile devices; not permitted for K4- 6th grade and not required equipment for 7th – 12th grades (kept in cars or deposited with the Principle/Vice Principal upon entering the school). The Board of Directors considers pre-teen children far too young an age to understand concepts such as invasion of privacy, laws/penalties regarding Name Image and Likeness (NIL) violations, harassment, and that assault is a verbal act of intimidation , and bullying which adults may be held liable when committed by minors in their charge. Far too often the worldly conversations and actions of students outside of school becomes fodder for gossip, slander, and harassment that is disruptive to learning, unhealthy for their age group, and un-Christian.

We offer a sample of links to search for/review as starting points of your foray into the negative side of unfettered internet access. Being innocent of the dangers of Internet Use, youth can venture down a slippery slope online which fosters bad habits of disregarding Internet Service Provider and website guidelines that can lead to loss of privacy, loss of content control, and legal jeopardy with respect to age limits, and child exploitation via GPS allowed location in APPS. Minor children can also fall under the criminal laws related to bullying and verbal assault by way of electronic media. Delete does not mean “gone forever” in those cases when recipients save or screen capture content it can be reposted. Many users, including young people and adults, may not be aware that the Internet is backed up regularly by network administrators and companies. This data is stored on "way-back" servers, which means it can be recovered at any time.

As parents, you are the “gatekeepers” with oversight responsibility of what your child does with a Smartphone and while online. We do not want you to send us objectionable content for our action; but we will partner with you when at all possible, to keep children safe and preserve our learning environment. In most cases, intervention is best when first attempted by a Parent/Guardian-to-Child or Parent-to-Parent level of discourse to investigate early on and ensure corrective actions. We do encourage you to bring issues of concern affecting your child’s school relationships and learning to their teacher. The school will evaluate the extent we may be able to intervene. This will begin an administrative process of ongoing monitoring of the school climate and offending child’s behavior. Please work with your children to keep this process corrective, not punitive such that responsible online activity may keep them free of legal jeopardy as well.

The attached is a selective listing of online references and scripture that speaks to our worldly nature and repercussion with God regarding “Gossip” and “Slandering”. These can be supporting references to read and discuss with your child read.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jeffrey P. Cila
Chairman, Board of Directors

Cc: OCA Board Members, Principal, OCA Faculty, File

Selective Internet Usage References

(Letter will be posted to ocapatriots.com under the Forms tab.)

[CISA: Keeping Children Safe Online](#)

[Be Internet Awesome Highlights.com \(Elementary\)](#)

[Teens and social media use: What's the impact? - Mayo Clinic](#)

[KidsHealth: Online safety](#)

[SaferKidsOnline: Avoid Pitfalls of Downloading](#)

[Cyberbullying](#)

Wisdom Surrounding Gossip & Slander

(New American Standard Bible)

Gossip

Proverbs 20: Verse 3; Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.
Verse 4; The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing.
Verse 17; Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

II Corinthians 12: Verse 20; For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances

Romans 1: Verse 28-32; And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper. Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil' full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

I Timothy 5: Verse 13; and at the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busy bodies, talking about things not proper to mention

II Timothy 3: Verse 1; But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to

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parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good.

Verse 12; And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Titus: Verses 1 – 3; Remind them to be subject to rulers to authorities to the obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gently, showing, every consideration for all men. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Slandering

Leviticus 19: Verse 15-16; You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly. You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Proverbs 10: Verse 12; Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins.

Verse 17-18 He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray. He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.

Verse 23 Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool; and so is wisdom to a man of understanding.

Proverbs 11: Verse 3; The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the falseness of the treacherous

will destroy them. Verse 7; When a wicked man dies his expectation will perish, and the hope of strong men perishes. Verse 12; He who despises his neighbor lacks sense. But a man of understanding keeps silent. Verse 13; He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

Matthew 15: Verse 8-9; You hypocrites; rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you saying, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.

I Corinthians 4: Verse 11; To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

Colossians 3: Verse 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.