

Plainville Public Schools

USD 270



...where students walk through the doors of opportunity every day.

Parents, Guardians and Students of USD 270:

As fall approaches, this letter is to alert you to the school district's student behavior policies and Kansas law as to statements, comments and other inappropriate behavior by students towards other students at USD 270.

Our student handbook and board policies require school administrators to investigate any complaints about student behaviors that may be threatening, harassing or bullying towards others. Such behaviors are not acceptable at school, on school property or at school-sponsored events. Students who exhibit these behaviors will be disciplined up to/and including short- and long-term suspensions from school.

Please be advised that students and parents should also be cautious about their use of cellphones, I-phones and any other telecommunication devices. There is no expectation of privacy if a student uses any computer or electronic device to harass, threaten or bully another student at school. Discipline may also be imposed on a student for behavior outside of school if a student's comments, posting, etc. after school end up disrupting the learning environment at school.

Finally, the Kansas legislature passed a law in 2011, K.S.A. 21-6206, that makes harassing, threatening and bullying behaviors a crime. Parents and students who complain that another student is using a computer or phone after school to harass, bully or threaten other students are being given a copy of this statute and being advised they can contact local police and file a criminal complaint under K.S.A. 21-6206.

Please review this criminal law with your student(s) to make sure they understand that using a cell phone or any other electronic media to harass, threaten or bully another student or staff may be a crime.

Enclosed is a copy of this law for your student's review. Please encourage your student to be cautious in their tweets, texts, postings and other conversations about other students or staff.

As a parent, please advise your student(s) that any inappropriate comments, statements, etc. about any other student or school personnel in any text message, email, call, etc. may become public and may result in school discipline and/or a concerned parent filing a criminal complaint against them with law enforcement.

Prevention is the best approach, and hopefully the knowledge of this new law will help your son/daughter understand that what they put out there in social media may be used against them if the comments are threatening, intimidating, bullying or harassing towards others.

Please call if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Krob
Plainville Jr/Sr High School Principal

Chris Rinehart
Plainville Grade School Principal

Statute Number: KSA 21-6206
Chapter Title: 21 CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS
Article Title: 62 CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE
Brief Description: Harassment by telecommunication device.

21-6206. Harassment by telecommunication device. (a) Harassment by telecommunication device is the use of:

- (1) A telecommunications device to:
 - (A) Knowingly make or transmit any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image or text which is lewd, lascivious or indecent;
 - (B) make or transmit a call, whether or not conversation ensues, with intent to abuse, threaten or harass person at the receiving end;
 - (C) make or transmit any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image or text with intent to abuse, threaten or harass any person at the receiving end;
 - (D) make or cause a telecommunications device to repeatedly ring or activate with intent to harass any person at the receiving end;
 - (E) knowingly play any recording on a telephone, except recordings such as weather information or sports information when the number thereof is dialed, unless the person or group playing the recording shall be identified and state that it is a recording; or
 - (F) knowingly permit any telecommunications device under one's control to be used in violation of this paragraph.
 - (2) Telefacsimile communication to send or transmit such communication to a court in the state of Kansas for a use other than court business, with no requirement of culpable mental state.
- (b) Harassment by telecommunication device is a class A nonperson misdemeanor.
- (c) Every telephone directory published for distribution to members of the general public shall contain a notice setting forth a summary of the provisions of this section. Such notice shall be printed in type which is no smaller than any other type on the same page and shall be preceded by the "WARNING."
- (d) As used in this section, "telecommunications device" includes telephones, cellular telephones, telefacsimile machines and any other electronic device which makes use of an electronic communication service, as defined in K.S.A. 22-2514, and amendments thereto.
- (e) An offender who violates the provisions of this section may also be prosecuted for, convicted of, and punished for any other offense in K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 21-5508, 21-5509, 21-5510 or 21-6401.
History: L. 2010, ch. 136, § 184; L. 2011, ch. 100, § 17; July 1.