



VANGUARD ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

A PURPOSE IN LIFE, A REASON FOR LEARNING

Public Information Department

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Vanguard Academy desires to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student conduct. Our schools provide resources to educate and engage every student, at every grade level on bullying. These resources promote communication and social skills to educate students about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyber-bullying. These resources provided include weekly Counselor Sessions with each classroom, with each grade level on teaching students how to create a culture of kindness and respect.

Our administrative teams, faculty and staff also receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Below is our Vanguard Academy Anti-Bullying policy and our Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources.

Freedom from Bullying

Vanguard Academy prohibits bullying as defined below, as well as retaliation against anyone who reports or is involved in an investigation of potential bullying.

Bullying is defined in state law as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the School; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

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*It is the policy of Vanguard Academy Charter School not to discriminate on the basis of gender, color, race, national origin, religion, disability or age.
Es la política de Vanguard Academy Charter School no discriminar en base a género, color, raza, origen nacional, religión, discapacidad o edad.*



Bullying also includes cyberbullying, which is defined by state law as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

The school's anti-bullying policy applies to:

- Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
- Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
- Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related

activity if the cyberbullying:

o Interferes with a student's educational opportunities; or

o Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child the *"Before You Text: Sexting & Bullying Prevention, Education & Intervention Course,"* a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.



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In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of Vanguard Academy's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

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