



La Cañada  
High School

*A National Blue Ribbon School*

Registration 2019

## **Hazing / Bullying & Cyberbullying Policy**

La Cañada High School (LCHS) has established student safety as a high priority. LCHS desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. LCHS does not tolerate hazing, bullying, and cyberbullying because such activities have harmful effects on students, student learning, and school attendance. Hazing, bullying, and cyberbullying will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken as required by California law and/or District policy.

No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel.

### **HAZING**

"Hazing" can be defined as any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group, including but not limited to, athletic teams, clubs, pep squad, and/or ASB, that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" is further defined as any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a group, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, alcohol/binge drinking, sleep deprivation and sexual acts, or personal degradation, humiliation, or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, including loss of consciousness or concussion.

Hazing is illegal under California law and prohibited by District policy. Violations of the laws which prohibit hazing are punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both. Additionally, participants in hazing may be held civilly liable to their victims. Students who engage in hazing will be subject to progressive discipline, suspension, or expulsion as deemed appropriate by the District. Further, when applicable, law enforcement and/or college admissions officers may be notified of hazing offenses.

### **BULLYING**

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be predicted to: (1) place a pupil in fear of harm; (2) cause a pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; (3) cause a pupil to experience substantial interference with his/her academic performance; or (4) causes a pupil to experience substantial interference with his/her ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges.

### **CYBERBULLYING**

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Cyberbullying means communications by an electronic device, including but not limited to a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless device, computer, pager, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be predicted to: (1) place a pupil in fear of harm; (2) cause a pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; (3) cause a pupil to experience substantial interference with his/her academic performance; or (4) causes a pupil to experience substantial interference with his/her ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges.

Cyberbullying includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into or “hacking” another person’s electronic account and/or assuming that person’s identity in order to damage that person’s reputation.

### **PROHIBITION ON HAZING, BULLYING, AND CYBERBULLYING**

No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel. No student or group of students shall share or post inappropriate or explicit photos of any other student of school personnel.

Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they believe they are victims of hazing, bullying, or cyberbullying, or suspect that another student is being victimized.

Students may submit to a teacher or administrator a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be hazing/bullying/cyberbullying. Complaints shall be investigated in accordance with LCHS policy.

When a student is reported to have engaged in hazing, bullying, or cyberbullying off campus, the school shall investigate, and if the investigator believes hazing, bullying or cyberbullying has occurred, the investigator shall document the activity and identify facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activities, school attendance, and the targeted student’s safety, physical or mental health, educational/academic performance, or ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities or privileges.

When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity are encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, administrator, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

Any student who engages in hazing, bullying, or cyberbullying on or off school premises, in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with district policies and regulations.

We have read, understand and agree to the above statement/policy. We understand that all incidents of hazing, bullying, and cyberbullying will be investigated and offending students will be subject to appropriate discipline.