



March 20, 2019

Good Morning Hamilton High Families,

Yesterday, Hamilton High conducted a **pre-planned** search of students and their backpacks as our students entered campus. This event had been planned for several weeks in partnership with the Sheriff's Department and our District Security Department. The objective of the search was to curb the contraband and prohibited items being brought onto campus, in order to continue to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Students may not always be aware of how their post on social media may be perceived by the recipient or exactly what the post can lead to. Several students decided to capitalize on yesterday's search and spread rumors on social media that there was a threat on our campus. Student safety is our number one priority and we take these matters very seriously. When two students reported the post(s) to administrators, we quickly took swift action. We reached out to law enforcement who determined, after their investigation, that there was never a credible threat to any of the students or staff at Hamilton High.

We urge our families to take the time to speak to their child(ren) about what is appropriate to post on social media and what is not. Know that any time we receive information, whether the student intends for it to be a joke or not, the student will be disciplined.

Below I have attached the Top 10 tips for Cyber Etiquette. Please review them with your child.

Thank you and have a good day.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Ruddell  
Principal

### **Top 10 Cyber Etiquette Tips:**

1. Exercise the Golden Rule - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you wouldn't speak to the person that way face to face, then don't do it online.
2. Remember everything you post online is public. It doesn't matter whether or not you delete the message or text. If you've published it, it's traceable. When you post things online, you're creating a cyber-fingerprint.
3. **DON'T USE ALL CAPS** when you're emailing or posting something. All CAPS is a form of internet shouting.
4. Speak kindly. Remember: it may look like a screen in front of you, but there's another person on the receiving end.

#### Administrative Team

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5. Don't post things when you're angry. It's never a good idea to post something when you're emotional. Take some time to clear your head before you deal with the situation. This will help you refrain from saying something that you later regret.
6. Use different usernames and passwords. Don't use the same one all the time. Many teens use the same username and password for all of their sites and this is not a good idea. If someone figures out your security information, they'll have access to everything. It's best to set-up different usernames and passwords for maximum protection.
7. Don't make up silly email addresses. You will use your email address for college applications, job applications, résumés, and scholarship opportunities. Look at your email address; does it set a good impression? If not, reset it.
8. Don't post pictures of yourself or others unless you mind them being shared with everyone. Be very selective of what you upload on the computer. Always have your parents review it before you post it. If your parents don't approve, you shouldn't be putting it on the internet. If it's a friend's photo, ask yourself if their parents would want that photo posted. If the answer's "no" then don't publish it.
9. Don't talk to strangers. Don't get into chat rooms and reveal confidential things about yourself. You may feel that you know the person on the other end of your cyber connection, but he/she can be a phony.
10. Don't give out personal and confidential information online. Never share your full name, home address, phone number, Social Security number, passwords, names of family members, or credit card numbers.