

*August 2018*

*Dear Parents,*

*I wrote this “note home” (see below) five years ago after a number of incidents were causing a great deal of disruption on our sites affecting a number of our students’ education. Luckily, with the help of our schools, we are seeing less negative posts from students to other students.*

*Unfortunately, now we are seeing a larger number of comments on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms by adults in the community about our students. Please, our young people, as did we, make mistakes. It’s a part of growing up and learning. As we remember, sometimes those mistakes are painful to live with amongst peers. They are even more painful when criticized by the community.*

*So I ask our community, for the health of our students, if you see such comments please kindly ask the blogger to take their comments off-line.*

*Sincerely,*

*Eric L. Volta*

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February 8, 2013

Dear Parents,

As a parent I remember the first days of my son’s new driver’s license. Like many of you they were filled with the constant reminders of “drive responsibly,” “be safe,” “a car is not a toy,” etc. As I reflect on a number of incidents at our schools recently that have led to unsafe, disruptive, hurtful, and disrespectful learning environments, I wonder if we should not do the same for our children when we issue them their first smart phone.

Smart phones have now become an invaluable tool for many of us; however, they come with the same responsibility of that first driver’s license. As we know, social media sites have become popular with everyone. We also know that our teenagers are one of the most social living organisms on the planet. They need to be constantly reminded to “pause before you post,” “do you want everyone to see that?”, “tone is not conveyed in text,” “don’t text and drive,” etc.

Please take some time to talk to OUR students about the responsibilities of now being linked to the World Wide Web.

Eric L. Volta