Murphysboro Community Unit School District No. 186

February 12, 2015

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you may be aware, the state has expanded school district's abilities in dealing with bullying. More specifically, the state has given school administrators the ability to "request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student’s account or profile on a social networking website if the elementary or secondary school has reasonable cause to believe that the student’s account on a social networking website contains evidence that the student has violated a school disciplinary rule or policy." (School Code 105 ILCS 75/15)

Murphysboro Community Unit School District 186 has an acceptable use policy for technology. The Authorization for electronic Network Access Form which the student or parent signs during registration explains "...use of the internet shall be consistent with the District’s goal of promoting educational excellence..." In other words, we consider education to be at our core. We further believe that no one should give others their passwords; that no one should log in to an electronic system as someone else; and that to ask a student to allow this is modeling bad practice and subsequently bad education.

Because of the above referenced points, Murphysboro Community Unit School District 186 will enact the following steps should an investigation into inappropriate activity on social networking websites occur.

1. The accused student will be talked to about the alleged behavior on the social networking site.
2. The accused student may be asked to "log in" to their social networking site and allow the administrator to see if their behavior violated the practices or policies. Should the student refuse to allow the administration to view their account, guilt can be assumed.
3. The parents of the accused student will be contacted as always when behavioral situations occur.

I hope this clarifies our practices given the new law. We understand the complexity social networks have brought to our lives, both for the good and for the bad. We want nothing more than to work with our families to create the best educational environment for your child.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these issues, please contact your school administrator.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Grode
Superintendent