

A SOCIAL MEDIA COMPACT:

WHAT MR. ARNOLD AND THE DEBATE TEAM DISCUSSED AND AGREED TO

To facilitate the conversation with his team, Mr. Arnold raised these discussion points:

- Think about how you communicate electronically:
 - Would you say the same thing, the same way, if you knew your parents would see it? Or if the admissions office of your future college would see it? (*They could*).
 - Are you treating others with the same respect you would show them if you talked to them in person? If not, how?
 - Are you treating others with the same respect you would want them to show you? If not, how?
- Brainstorm examples: What's in bounds? What's out of bounds?
- Can we think of rules that define these examples? Can we agree on those rules?
- Can we think of values and principles that underlie these rules? Can we agree on those principles?
- When we talk about ground rules for respectful communications, should those rules apply only among us as a team, or with everyone with whom we come in contact?
- How do you think my responsibilities as a professional educator affect how I can communicate with you, and how you should communicate with me?

As a result of their discussion, here's what the team agreed to:

Our Social Media Compact

As friends, as members of the Debate Team and school community, and as leaders, we agree:

We will follow the Three R's (Be Reasonable, Responsible, and Respectful) in all our communications — online, texting, in apps, in person, wherever. When we communicate electronically, we will treat others with the same respect we would show them if we were speaking to them in person — and with the same respect that we would want them to show us.

We aren't mean. We don't make stuff up. We don't engage in, support, or condone cruelty, gossip, bullying, or spreading rumors.

We will be authentic and honest about our identity. What we do online will be consistent with the person we aspire to be.

We know that nothing we send to Mr. Arnold is confidential or private. He might share any emails, texts, messages, documents, photos, etc., with other teachers, the administration, or our parents/guardians — it's up to him. We also know that if Mr. Arnold responds to our electronic communications, he will copy our parents and an administrator from the school in his response. This will ensure transparency in all interactions.

Getting to and from team trips, tournaments, and practices is our and our parents' responsibility. We understand that we cannot participate in these team activities unless we have first provided Mr. Arnold with a form (signed by our parent or guardian) that designates at least two ways we can get home from the event and the contact information for at least three adults who are authorized to take us home. We will also use the buddy system, and accept a parallel responsibility ourselves to make sure that we never leave our buddy alone at the end of a trip. In the unlikely event that, despite all this, we still do not have a ride home, we and our parents hereby agree that a taxi cab will be secured to transport us home, and that our parents will reimburse the teacher or the school for all expenses.

We all agree to this compact because we think it's a good idea. No one made us enter into this compact. We each had the option to decline to sign this.

[Signed by each team member and their parent or guardian]