

SEXTING: Empowering Students to Engage in Positive Communication

Secondary Lesson 14

Lesson Title: Sexting: Causes and Consequences, the Facts

Description: The purpose of the lesson is to provide students with the facts about the internet. In today's world, the internet serves as a powerful tool of information; however, it can also be a dangerous one. Students must be made aware of the dangers of the internet and how to be protected.

Objectives: The students will be able to:

- Recognize and understand the definition of harassment, cyberbullying, sexting over the internet.
- Consider and develop the pros and cons to technological advances.
- Research the latest information concerning the legal ramifications of inappropriate use of the computer.
- Understand laws in place and in development to protect against cyberbullying and "sexting".

Standards-Based Student Development Program Benchmark(s):

Benchmark PS 1.0

Student accepts responsibility for personal behavior

Benchmark PS 1.4

Identifying situations in which peer pressure might affect adherence to or violation of acceptable norms

Benchmark HD 1.0

Maintain a healthy lifestyle and demonstrate positive behaviors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle

Springboard Activity: Ask students to complete **Handout 14.1: Pros/Cons List**, the assignment will generate a class list of all the technological devices that aid in communication. Students will then explain what each device does.

FCAT Benchmarks:

- LA.A.2.4.7 Analyzes the validity and reliability of primary source information
LA.C.1.4.3 Uses effective strategies for informal and formal discussions.

Accommodations: Teachers of students with disabilities are mandated by state and federal law to provide accommodations as stated on the students' IEP. General accommodations and best practices are listed in the introduction.

Instructional Time: One class period

Instructional Materials

- Dry erase board and markers
- **Handout 14.1: Pros/Cons List**
- **Handout 14.2: Defining Sexting, Cyberbullying, and Harassment**
- **Handout 14.3: Scenarios**
- **Handout 14.4: Vocabulary and the Law**

Instructional Lesson:

1. Ask students to share the answers from the Springboard Activity. Review their responses.
2. Distribute **Handout 14.2: Defining Sexting, Cyberbullying and Harassment**. Students will complete the true or false questions to determine their views of the subjects of Sexting, Bullying, and Cyber bullying.
3. Analyze the definition of cyber bullying and discuss it in class. Once students have learned what cyber stalking/cyber bullying is, students will be informed as to the crimes and legal consequences from these actions in Florida. Refer to **Handout 14.4: Vocabulary and the Law**.
4. Divide students into 5 groups. Distribute **Handout 14.3: Scenarios: Is this a Crime?** Each group is assigned a scenario. They are to analyze the actions in each situation and determine whether a crime was committed and what the penalty for each crime would be.

Assessment: Teacher observation, class participation and completion of activity.

Follow-up Activities/Home Learning/Parent: Ask students to share the results of **Handout 14.1: Pros/Cons List** with their parents.

Handout 14.1: Pros/Cons List

How we communicate?		
Device/uses	<u>Pros:</u> Benefits of using this device	<u>Cons:</u> Problems created by the use of this device
Cell phone:		
Internet:		
Social Network:		
Portable Devices:		
Other:		

- 1) If you could keep only one of these devices/cyber-tools, which would it be?

- 2) Why? How does this device improve the quality of your life?

- 3) How do these devices negatively affect society?

- 4) Specifically, what dangers do we face due to social networks and the internet?

- 5) What are some ways we can protect ourselves from these dangers?

Handout 14.2: Defining “Sexting”, Cyberbullying, and Harassment

Read each statement and circle ‘T’ if you believe that statement is true and ‘F’ if you believe it is false.

- T or F Bullying can only occur when the bully is physically bigger than the victim.
- T or F Sexting can only be done by friends you know.
- T or F People who are bullied generally just get over it.
- T or F Posting nasty and offensive names or playfully insulting someone is a form of cyberbullying.
- T or F If I just stand around and laugh or watch as someone is being bullied, I really can’t get into trouble for that.
- T or F Bullies are more likely to be criminals in the future.
- T or F If I received profanity over the internet, there is really nothing I can do about it.

Handout 14.3: Scenarios: Is this a Crime?

Read each scenario and decide whether a crime was committed and what the crime and consequences are.

Scenario #1: You are over your friend's house acting silly. Your friends decide to re-enact a scene from a movie and record it on your camera...just for fun. You make costumes out of sheets and dance and act silly for the camera. Afterwards, you all have a big laugh watching the video...you realize you look ridiculous and become concerned because some of the movie scenes are a little tasteless, but you feel safe because it is just you and your friends. The next day you go to school and other students are coming up to you, laughing and quoting your lines from the video. People you don't even know have seen it and make comments like, "What's wrong with you?" and "You look so stupid on that video!" You realize that one of your friends put the video on their MySpace page for everyone to see without your knowledge or permission.

Scenario #2: You've had a really bad day. Everything has gone wrong. Your teacher gave you a detention, you got an "F" on a surprise test, and your friends have disappointed you. You go online onto your own public web page and write a blog about everyone who made you angry today. You say on your blog, "this person made me so mad, I could kill them!"

Scenario #3: A friend has a link on their web page where you can answer questions about who is the prettiest, skinniest, ugliest, fattest, or geekyist kids in school. You log on and vote.

Scenario #4: You and your friend got into an argument. When you get home, you have three (3) nasty e-mails from him/her insulting you. You try to ignore but then you find that you cannot log on without receiving repeated threatening IMs.

Scenario #5: A person who used to be your friend forwards your e-mails and texts to another friend without your permission. In those e-mails, you revealed very personal things.

Handout 14.4: Vocabulary and the Law

Harass: to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such person and serves no legitimate purpose. In other words, harassment is when your behavior or actions toward another person causes them emotional, mental, or physical pain (emotional distress) for no good reason.

Course of Conduct: a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose. In other words, your repetitive actions, no matter the length of time you continue to do them.

Credible Threat: A threat made with the intent to cause the person to reasonably fear for his or her safety.

Cyber stalk: To engage in a course of conduct where communication through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, is directed at a specific person, causing a substantial **emotional distress** to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

*Use this table and the definition of cyber bullying to discuss the scenarios on handout # and their consequences.

Cyberbullying: Being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or engaging in other forms of social cruelty using the Internet or other digital technologies.

Florida State Statute

States have developed legislation to deal with the problem of bullying, particularly with the new crime of cyber bullying or “cyber stalking.” The law is very clear and attempts to change as technology develops. The following terminology is used to clarify the crimes and consequences outlined in the Florida Statute:

Summary Florida Statute Penal Code: 784.048		
Behavior	Crime	Consequence
Repeatedly and intently harassing or cyber stalking another person	Misdemeanor; 1 st degree	Up to 1 year in prison; \$1,000 in fines
Any action or behavior that makes another person feel threatened, fear death or bodily injury of themselves or their loved ones.	Aggravated Stalking; Felony, 3 rd degree	Up to 5 years in prison; \$5,000 in fines
Any person who harasses a minor (someone under the age of 18)	Aggravated Stalking; Felony, 3 rd degree	Up to 5 years in prison; \$5,000 in fines

M-DCPS School Board Rule

As of February 2011, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' School Board approved the school board policy titled, **Sexting** 6Gx13-5D-1.082. (See below) This board rule has been defined in the M-DCPS procedures manual titled, Empowering Students to Engage In Positive Communications: A Guide to Combat Student Sexting (now available as an e-handbook).

6Gx13- 5D-1.082

Welfare

SEXTING

Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) defines sexting as the act of sending or forwarding through cellular telephones and other electronic media sexually explicit, nude or partially nude photographs/images. It is M-DCPS' mission to ensure the social, physical, psychological, and academic well-being of all students. The educational purposes of the schools are best accomplished in a climate of student behavior that is socially acceptable and conducive to the learning and teaching process.

Standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents/legal guardians, staff and community members creating an atmosphere that encourages respect of individuals and groups. The District has a unique ability and responsibility to prevent sexting, promote awareness, engage parental and community support and train parents/families to regulate cyber activities. The act of sexting is prohibited and will not be tolerated. The policy addressing sexting will be enforced through the Code of Student Conduct.

The document, *Empowering Students to Engage in Positive Communication: A Guide to Combat Student Sexting Procedures Manual*, contains the District's directives and procedures relative to sexting. Copies of the document are on file for public reference in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center. Additionally, a copy shall be available at each Regional Center for inspection.

Specific Authority: 1001.41 (1), (2); 1001.42 (25); 1001.43 (10); F.S.
Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 1001.41 (1), (2); 1001.42 (8), (25); 1001.43 (10); F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
New: