

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week we took our study hall time to speak to each team about social media and sexting. These discussions were led by our Student Services and School Counseling departments and the students were separated into groups of boys and girls.

The presentations included three main points:

1. Sexting, sexual harassment, and inappropriate images exchanged between mobile devices.
2. Cyber bullying, and harassment.
3. Social media and internet safety.

The presentations concluded with discussions around goals for students, including college, athletics, careers, etc. and how the issues covered can stunt their academic growth and prevent them from reaching the goals they have.

The purpose of this meeting was not to catch anyone doing these things, but more to give information on the topic as well as hear from students about this topic of sexting.

Within the session, sexting was defined as sending (someone) sexually explicit photographs or messages via cell phone.

We wanted the students to understand that students are making mistakes and it is our job to educate you about this and discuss how to deal with it if you ARE or ARE NOT involved with this.

We stressed the gravity of the issues explaining the short term/long term consequences (legal implications, parents pressing charges, school consequences, dangers, etc.)

We also discussed what to do you if you are on the receiving end, who can help, who can you talk to, and the importance of informing parents and even reporting anonymously on our school website.

We acknowledged that the topic often brings about discomfort and we let the students know what/where is a safe zone/spoke about confidentiality and told them that it is a good idea to ask questions or have a discussion with their parents/guardians.

This will be an ongoing discussion, please talk to your children and reach out to our counselors if you have any questions.