



# *West Side School/Lloyd Harbor School*

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Valerie R. Massimo, *Lloyd Harbor Principal*

Kurt Simon, *West Side Principal*

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September 6, 2011

Dear Parents:

In the 1990's, educators and parents recognized that students were entering the digital age. Today, our students are 21<sup>st</sup> century learners who are part of something even greater---the mobile age----an age of mobile devices such as Smart phones, iPods, and video games, which enable them to access the Internet (anytime/anywhere), communicate and collaborate with people beyond the walls of school and home, and capture images and video instantly and share them with a world-wide audience. Educators and parents recognize that these devices have features that can help children develop important skills they'll need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but that there are also concerns about the potential for harm caused by misuse of these devices.

## **Educators and parents share concerns about:**

- the difficulty of monitoring children's access to inappropriate content
- the potential for students to become distracted by the devices
- the possibility that students will engage in cyberbullying

As a school community, it is our responsibility to find the balance between supporting the skills and tools our students need, and protecting the privacy, rights, and safety of all individuals. As such, it is essential that we share our current expectations with you about the use of mobile devices in school:

- **Cell phones, video games, and iPods must be kept in students' backpacks during instructional time, unless a teacher will be supervising their use for instructional purposes.**
- **Video games may be played during indoor recess and non-instructional time only. (e.g. while on the bus or waiting for the bus)**
- **Internet access is only permitted when supervised by an adult. As always, students must adhere to our Internet Agreement.**
- **If a student needs to call home, s/he should ask permission to use the phone in the main office.**
- **No unauthorized taking of photos or video is permitted.**

Finally, please note that according to the Cold Spring Harbor Board of Education Policy 5662, the District "does not assume responsibility or liability for loss by theft or otherwise of personal property brought to school or to off-campus school-sponsored events by students (including, but not limited to field trips and competitions)."

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Valerie R. Massimo

Kurt Simon