"Just like using drugs and alcohol to numb the pain can — and does — lead to addiction, using social media to fill the void of relationships, or other needs, often leads to addiction, as well." Mandy J. Hoffman

Protecting the Next Generation of North Carolinians

"Too much of anything can be harmful, and that includes being online and using social media. On average, 8- to 12-year-olds use screens for more than five and a half hours a day, and 13- to 18-year-olds use screens for more than eight and a half hours a day. It's clear that too many children and teens are struggling with their mental health, and many of those problems arise online." Attorney General Josh Stein

Why teach Digital Citizenship?

Digital citizenship is important because it equips students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world responsibly and ethically. It helps promote online safety, respect, and awareness of one's digital footprint. By understanding how to protect personal information, engage in respectful online communication, and recognize online threats, students can build a positive and secure digital environment for themselves and others.

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

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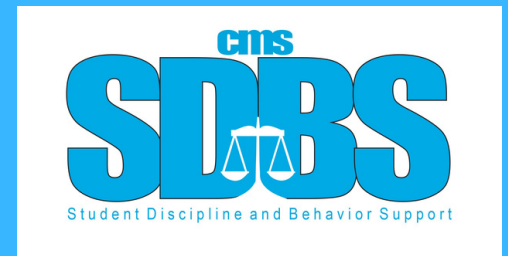**The Student Discipline and Behavior Support Department**

Spaugh Professional Development Center
Student Discipline and Behavior Support
1901 Herbert Spaugh Lane
Charlotte, NC 28208

Dr. Delisa Fields
Alternative Education Manager

980-344-0401 Desk
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<u>S</u>ocial <u>M</u>edia <u>A</u>wareness <u>R</u>esponsibility <u>T</u>raining

About Us

SMART is a program designed to support students who have experienced incidents of cyberbullying (Rule 8) either at school or outside of school that have an impact on the school environment. Attendance of both the student and their parent/guardian is mandatory for SMART. The main objective of SMART is to raise awareness about cyberbullying through open discussions, address inappropriate behavior through intervention, and examine the emotional and social well-being of students affected by cyberbullying at school.

Our aim is to provide supportive measures that enable students to make informed decisions, address any harm caused, prevent future incidents, and explore restorative options to find resolutions.

What We Do

SMART program is responsible for reviewing the policies of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools District related to cyberbullying. This review is conducted in accordance with the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Character Development Handbook, aiming to ensure a safe learning environment for students. The program specifically focuses on Rules 8, 21, and 22 in the handbook, and engages both students and their families in the review process.

Class Meetings

Classes for SMART are scheduled on Saturdays from 9 am to 12 pm by appointment.
Upon completion of the class, students will receive a Notice of Completion. Additionally, the referring school administrator, parent, or law enforcement officer will also be notified of the student's completion of the class.

Social Media Awareness Responsibilty in the News

"The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board joined 200 school districts across the country in suing major social media companies for contributing to a "mental health crisis" among American children. The suit targets owners of Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube. Defendants include Meta and Google." - The Carolina Journal

Why is SMART Important?

- Teaches students to promote ethical behavior online.
- Teaches students to protect personal and professional reputation.
- Develops digital citizenship skills
- Enhances online safety
- Prepares students for future careers

SOCIAL
Don't share personal information with people you don't know.

MEDIA
Meeting someone you met online can be dangerous. Check with an adult first.

AWARENESS
Be careful about accepting emails, files, pictures, or texts from someone you don't know.

RESPONSIBILITY
Research information before you believe it. Is the person or website credible?

TRAINING
Tell an adult if something makes you feel uncomfortable.

Student Discipline and Behavior Support Department 980-343-3768

SMART Program At A Glance

REFERRAL BASED

Students are referred to the SMART by various sources such as school administrators, learning community administrators, parental requests, or through the Youth Diversion Office of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department.

CURRICULUM

The SMART curriculum utilizes a restorative practice approach to address important topics such as cyberbullying, responsible posting, digital drama, and recognizing red flags on social media. This curriculum also focuses on developing social and emotional competencies through scaffolding techniques.

EXPECTATIONS

To successfully pass the SMART course, students are required to attend class with their parent/guardian, be present in their in-person or virtual class at the designated time, actively engage in discussions, maintain visual contact and active participation throughout the course, follow instructions, show respect towards their peers, and provide honest and thoughtful feedback when prompted.