March 27, 2020

Dear Match High School Parents,

We hope you have been doing well during this difficult time. As you know, we have been working hard to engage your students via remote learning while school is closed due to COVID-19. A large portion of the work we are assigning your children involves interactions with teachers and peers via technology. In addition, we expect that students are spending much of their free time using technology to interact with their peers, catch up with friends, and connect with others.

These interactions are positive and should be encouraged. We want our students to continue to engage with their peers and our wonderful school community during this isolating and uncertain time, and technology and social media provide an incredible opportunity for our students to connect with one another while they are physically isolated in their homes.

However, we realize that with the increased use of technology and social media comes a heightened risk of cyberbullying. We want to take this opportunity to reiterate that cyberbullying is absolutely prohibited at Match Charter Public School, and any online communication that is discriminatory, harassing or threatening to others will not be tolerated. Cyberbullying is treated the same as in-person bullying and is prohibited, as stated in the Student and Family Handbook and Bullying Prevention Plan (both of which can be found on our website). Students are required to uphold high standards in the language they use in virtual class meetings and in their communications with staff members and one another.

We are communicating these expectations to your students directly, but we need your help. Please do what you can to reinforce these messages to your children, and to encourage them to use these devices and platforms responsibly and ethically. If you become aware that your child is either an aggressor or victim of bullying behavior, please let me know immediately by emailing me at alexis.johnson@matchschool.org or calling me at 646-915-5087.

Thank you for partnering with us on this important issue.

Alexis Johnson

Interim Principal | Match High School