

## **Digital and Social Network Communication**

It is recognized that school personnel, including teachers, coaches and others, will communicate with students via digital and social networking communication mediums. This policy does not apply to digital or social networking communication that a staff member may have with a personal acquaintance who is not a member of the school community. Digital and social networking communication includes but is not limited to email, text messages, Facebook, and Twitter. Proper decorum must be maintained at all times in the online, digital world. Employees must conduct themselves in ways that do not distract from or disrupt the educational process.

The following uses of digital communication is strictly prohibited by all district employees:

- 1) Posting items with sexual content.
- 2) Posting items exhibiting or advocating use of drugs and alcohol.
- 3) Any other fraternization and contact with students that could be interpreted as improper, suggestive, threatening or coercive.
- 4) Listing current students as "friends" on social networking sites, unless the students are family members.

Teachers, including coaches, may have "teacher pages" that are strictly for school use. Only academic, advisory, athletic or extracurricular posts are permitted. Personal information may not be posted. Teachers and coaches are prohibited from contacting students in any way other than through school district sanctioned venues. Contacting students via other means requires prior approval from administration.

The Hadley School District will monitor for improper use of district computers and technology and improper communication with students. If inappropriate use of computers and technology and/or improper communication is discovered, the School Principals and Superintendent will issue appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Adopted by Hadley School Committee  
04/23/2012

Hadley Public Schools