Dear Parents/Guardians:

Technology is an important part of our students’ education. We are fortunate here at the Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George’s Community College (AHS@PGCC) to be able to provide every student with a laptop for educational purposes. However, with this privilege comes a tremendous responsibility. I am calling upon parents and the rest of our community to assist me in ensuring that all of our students use their laptops responsibly and in accordance with the guidelines established by Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS).

Students laptops are the property of PGCPS and students must adhere to the PGCPS Information Technology Services Acceptable Usage Guidelines. These guidelines state, in part, that users are prohibited from accessing social media or messaging sites that are not part of a class activity under the direct supervision of a teacher, and they are prohibited from promoting the annoyance, harassment, or attack of others. In addition, please note that students are prohibited from using portable electronic devices (PEDs), including their laptops, for the unauthorized or unlawful sharing or electronic posting of images or recordings taken during school hours and/or on school property, or for taking, uploading, or sharing photos, recording audio, or capturing video during the school day in a manner that reflects bullying, harassment, intimidation or cyber bullying. You may find the complete Information Technology Services Acceptable Usage Guidelines and the PGCPS guidelines for the appropriate use of PEDs on the PGCPS website, specifically Administrative Procedures 0700 and 5132.

The penalties for violating these guidelines are serious, but the message we want students to understand is that in the world outside of the AHS@PGCC, inappropriate use of technology could result in expulsion from college or the loss of a job. Moreover, it could result in removal from this school. I ask that you partner with me in monitoring your children’s use of technology at home; I promise to do the same at school.

Finally, it has come to my attention that a small group of students has taken to social media to express concerns to each other about the behavior of other students. Please remind your child that they should report any suspicious or worrisome conduct of other students to a trusted adult at school, not to other students. As the adage states, “see something, say something.” Administrators, teachers, and Professional School Counselors are trained to respond to their concerns quickly and appropriately, and we are committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all of our students.

I am grateful and thankful for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy Richard Andrews
Principal