

## Laramie County School District 2 - Safe Blogging Policy

This is a set of general guidelines for the use of “blogs” within AfterClass. The Multimedia Blogs are considered an extension of the classroom and therefore are subject to these guidelines as well as the rules and regulations established at Laramie County School District 2. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive and do not cover every contingency. If you are ever in doubt about the appropriateness of an item, please ask a parent or teacher.

### **Safe and Responsible Blogging**

The most basic guideline to remember when blogging is that the blog is an extension of the classroom, you should not write anything on a blog that you would not say or write in your classroom. Use common sense, but if you are ever in doubt ask a teacher or parent whether or not what you are considering posting is appropriate. If you are going to err, err on the safe side. Here are some specific items to consider:

1. The use of blogs is considered an extension of your classroom. Therefore, any speech that is considered inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate on a blog. This includes, but is not limited to, profanity; racist, sexist or discriminatory remarks; personal attacks.
2. Blogs are used primarily as learning tools, either as extensions of conversations and thinking outside of regular class time, or as the basis for beginning new classroom discussions. Either way, be sure to follow all rules and suggestions that are offered by your teachers regarding appropriate posting in your class.
3. Blogs are about ideas – therefore, agree or disagree with the idea, not the person. Freedom of speech does not give you the right to be uncivil. Use constructive criticism and use evidence to support your position. Read others’ posts carefully – often in the heat of the moment you may think that a person is saying one thing, when really they are not.
4. Try not to generalize. Sentences that start with words like “All” (e.g., “All teachers,” “All administrators,” “All liberals,” “All conservatives”) are typically going to be too general.
5. Blogs are public. Whatever you post on a blog can be read by anyone and everyone on the Internet. Do not post anything that you wouldn’t want your parents, your best friend, your worst enemy, or a future employer to read.
6. Blog safely. NEVER post personal information on the web (including, but not limited to, first names, last names, personal details including address or phone numbers, usernames to other sites/social networks, or online games, or your initials). (Note: The advice to not use your first and/or last name is for your protection. Teachers may choose to use their last names for their posts/comments.) Do not, under any circumstances, agree to meet someone you have met over the Internet.
8. Linking to web sites from your blog or blog comments in support of your argument is an excellent idea. But never link to something without reading the entire article to make sure it is appropriate for a school setting.
9. Use of quotations in a blog is acceptable. Make sure that you follow the proper formatting and cite the source of the quote.