

Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs

Social Media Guidelines

BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE:

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a LBHS Silver Spur, you should:

1. **Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof.** Spurs are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if you diligently monitor your privacy settings, it's best to assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents and strangers.

2. **Avoid Posting Confidential Information.** Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is **NOT** recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.

3. **Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles.** Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.

4. **Avoid Posting Illegal Activities.** Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future. Spurs should avoid the following:

- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; pornographic material; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; vaping; smoking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.

5. **Avoid Bullying/Threats of Violence.** While people have a right to free speech, that right is **NOT** unlimited. Bullying is a serious problem and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. Spurs should avoid the following:

- Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, students, staff members, athletic administrators, or representatives of other schools;
- Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and
- Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

Silver Spurs should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

The following online actions are considered to be inappropriate:

- General inappropriate language of a profane or sexual nature
- Public display of affection or the appearance of inappropriate behavior with your boyfriend in pictures
- Profane or inappropriate language or remarks directed toward teammates, coaches, other students, staff, coaches, as well as administrators or representatives from other schools
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party
- Incriminating photos, statements, or language in reference to violence, drug or alcohol use, smoking, vaping, bullying, pornographic material, or any other inappropriate behaviors
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or property damage
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation
- Engaging or indicating knowledge of cyber bullying and/or harassing another student or staff member
- “Liking” any of the above comments or photos on Facebook or any other social networking sites indicates your approval of such comments and thereby holds you to the same standard. Should you choose to “Like” such comments/photos made on social networks by your friends, consequences could be given.
- “Retweeting” or marking a tweet as a “Favorite” on Twitter also indicated your approval of inappropriate comments and thereby holds you to the same standard. Choosing to retweet or favorite an inappropriate comment or picture could result in consequences.
- “Subtweeting” is not ok. If it isn’t something you can say to that person directly, then it probably doesn’t need to be said in the first place.
- Using acronyms in place of actual words or phrases that have profanity in them are not ok.
- Recording voice over videos with profane lyrics, suggestive movements, or inferences. (Tik Tok)

There is no possible way to make this a complete list of inappropriate actions on social media. However, it should give an idea of what is appropriate behavior when serving as a member of the Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs. The Silver Spur director and school administration reserve the right to use their discretion in other situations that could arise.

In short, the on-line social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

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I have read and understand what is expected of all Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs in regards to social media behavior. I understand that as an ambassador of Lake Belton High School I am held up to a higher standard and things I say and do can affect the reputation of Lake Belton High School and the Silver Spur program. I understand that my behavior on social media sites can affect my position on the Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs.

Spur Signature and printed name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature and printed name

Date