

To: Parent/ Guardians of Lethbridge School Division Students

From: Dr. Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent

Date: October 5, 2021

Re: Inappropriate Actions of Students Stemming from Social Media Misuse

I am sending this letter because of concerns about inappropriate actions stemming from social media. The concerns are increasing, and I hope we can work together. I encourage you to talk with your children about inappropriate use of technology that is harmful to others or encourages destroying property. We want schools to be safe places. We want all students to feel included, safe, and supported. We cannot do this alone. Your involvement as parents is important. I appreciate your support.

- 1) There are more concerns about students targeting other students including intimidation, harassment, bullying, discrimination, and/or encouraging conflict. This is *unacceptable*. It is disheartening some students intentionally make others feel unsafe, especially during these challenging times. As stated in the *Education Act* and Lethbridge School Division *Student Code of Conduct* [LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca), “students are entitled to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.... whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means.”
- 2) A disturbing trend is going viral in schools across the continent. Various social media platforms have been promoting challenges such as vandalism and assault directed towards youth, adolescents, and adults in school buildings. The most popular one is “Devious Licks.” I have attached the “Tik Tok Challenge List.” The list is unsavory, not acceptable, and criminal in nature. Unfortunately, there have been Lethbridge School students participating in these challenges. Our administrators and caretakers have dealt with increased vandalism in our school bathrooms since the release of the “September challenge.”

Please consider this fair warning that student involvement in this behaviour will ***not be tolerated***. Lethbridge School Division will take strong action, including suspension and re-entry with conditions, or even recommendation for expulsion should a student engage in assault. Choosing to engage in these activities demonstrates a lack of judgment, maturity, or skills to use technology responsibly. Re-entry strategies will focus on building a student’s ability to use technology appropriately. This may include a digital citizen learning package and loss of cell phone privileges at school. Other consequences may include police involvement and criminal charges.

A website that is recommended by our Technology department that can help parents become informed regarding different social media platforms is as follows: [Common Sense Media: Age-Based Media Reviews for Families](#) We will be putting together further information to help parents. We will send the information through School Messenger and put it on our Public Engagement website (linked from our main website).

I have also attached the “Student Responsibilities” from Section 31 of the *Alberta Education Act* for your reference. You will note that (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), and (i) are ALL linked to the issues I have outlined in this letter.

Take care,

Cheryl



Dr. Cheryl Gilmore

Superintendent
Lethbridge School Division

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ATTACHMENT

Superintendent Letter to Parents/Guardians

Date:

1. TIKTOK Challenges

TIKTOK'S SCHOOL CHALLENGES LIST REVEALED

According to a list that's circling TikTok and Twitter right now, these are the planned challenges for the rest of the school year.

September: Vandalise school bathrooms

October: Smack a staff member

November: Kiss your friend's girlfriend at school

December: “Deck the halls and show your b****”
(show your private parts)

January: Jab a breast

February: Mess up school signs

March: Make a mess in the courtyard or cafeteria

April: “Grab some eggz” (another stealing challenge)

May: Ditch day

June: Flip off in the front office

July: Spray a neighbour's fence

2. Student responsibilities (Section 31) *Alberta Education Act*

A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually;
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- (c) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school,
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- (h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.