



Patchogue-Medford School District

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July 16, 2024

Dear Patchogue-Medford School District Community,

During the 2023–2024 school year, we saw an increase in the number of disruptive and derogatory comments posted on the District’s social media pages that were of serious concern to us. In response to this development, the District has developed an official commenting policy that will serve as the guideline for future commenting by visitors to our pages.

The District’s social media pages have always been intended to serve as platforms for sharing District happenings and achievements, not as forums for discourse and especially not as vehicles for voicing hurtful or inflammatory comments. We are committed to ensuring the safety and integrity of the District’s social media pages and have created this policy in support of that mission. The following social media policy will be enforced on the District’s social media pages:

These are the Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District’s social media pages. The purpose of the District’s social media platforms is to serve as a means of communicating information about student and staff achievements and to keep the community informed about District happenings. While the District has always permitted comments, the social media pages are not intended to serve as forums for discourse or to engage the community about District issues or policies. The pages are not meant to allow hurtful and disruptive comments and personal attacks directed at specific students or District staff. The District closely monitors comments and reserves the right to remove comments that are beyond the scope of the forum and which are disruptive to the operations of the District. We will also use a standard word filter that will block disruptive statements including those considered derogatory, inflammatory, punitive, vulgar, discriminatory, racist, antisemitic, or which discriminate, or bully based on race, religion, heritage, ethnic group, sexuality, or gender identity. We encourage our community to use our social media pages in an appropriate and civil manner. Thank you for your understanding.

This policy will be effective immediately and visible on each social media page. Should comments of a harmful and disruptive nature continue, additional measures may be taken to limit commenting on the District’s social media pages. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Negrin
President
Patchogue-Medford School District Board of Education