



*A Modesto City School*

## **Joseph A. Gregori High School**

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January 14, 2021

Hello Parents and Guardians,

You are receiving this message because there have been some changes to the way we are asking our students to receive instruction and show participation in class. Gregori High School and all schools in the district are now encouraging a camera on culture for our students while in class.

It is a reasonable expectation that teachers can require students to activate their video as doing so has legitimate education purposes such as attendance taking, learning engagement, and supervision. The blurred background feature in the Microsoft Teams can be recommended if there are concerns from students and/or parents about in-home privacy while using video, and the use of the feature is generally good practice when video is utilized during class. We also highly recommend your student mute their microphone when not directly answering questions from the teacher or otherwise engaging in the class so others cannot hear what is going on in the background.

On the note of student privacy, It is important that parents/guardians/students respect others' privacy by not recording or taking photos of the lessons. Education Code section 43503 permits MCS to record instruction for the purpose of distance learning. However, any third party (parent or student) is prohibited from recording lessons or taking photos of lessons without the prior consent of the teacher and principal.

The expectations around student conduct while in a virtual class or on campus has not changed. The District's current Student Use of Technology (BP/AR 6163.4) policy holds students responsible for their conduct on District technology which includes the use of Chromebook devices. This policy explicitly extends the student conduct code to virtual environments and emphasizes the expectation to exercise good "digital citizenship." Digital citizenship in the classroom can broadly be defined as the ability to use technology and the Internet in an appropriate manner at all times while in class. As a result, Gregori administration supports teachers that decide to have students' cameras on throughout the lesson presentation and embed the participation into their grading practices.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your SLC office.

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Gregori Administration