

<b>Anti-Stigmatization Policy</b>	
Overview of the Anti-Stigmatization Policy	<p>Social stigma in the context of health is the negative association between a person or group of people who share certain characteristics and a specific disease. In an outbreak, this may mean people are labelled, stereotyped, discriminated against, treated separately, and/or experience loss of status because of a perceived link with a disease.</p> <p>Such treatment can negatively affect those with the disease, as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities. People who don't have the disease but share other characteristics with this group may also suffer from stigma.</p>
Anti-stigmatization Policy – responsible staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>The social workers and the other staff with responsibility for well-being will raise awareness by conducting awareness campaigns for students, parents and staff throughout Zoom, class dojo and social media concerning misconceptions around COVID-19.</b></li> <li>2) <b>Social workers, the nurse and other authorized staff must, as much as is possible, maintain the privacy and confidentiality of suspected or confirmed cases within the school community, and remind others to not behave in negative ways that exacerbate the victim's feelings of exclusion already induced by isolation.</b></li> <li>3) <b>All staff should share sympathetic narratives, or stories that humanize the experiences and struggles of individuals or groups affected by the new coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></li> </ol>
<b><u>Behavior and communication</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Talk positively and emphasize the effectiveness of prevention and treatment measures. For most people this is a disease they can overcome</li> <li>2) Choose words carefully. The way we communicate can affect the attitudes of others; talk about creating safety from, rather than fighting, the pandemic.</li> <li>3) Communicate support and encouragement for those who are on the frontlines of response to this outbreak (health care workers, volunteers, community leaders etc).</li> <li>4) Don't emphasize or dwell on the negative, or messages of threat. We need to work together to help keep those who are most vulnerable safe. We all need to be intentional and thoughtful when communicating on social media and other communication platforms, showing supportive behaviors around the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19).</li> <li>5) Don't attach locations or ethnicity to the disease, this is not a "Wuhan Virus", "Chinese Virus" or "Asian Virus".</li> <li>6) Don't refer to people with the disease as "COVID-19 cases" or "victims"</li> </ol>

	7) For many it's not possible, or feasible, to live in such a way that is entirely without risk of COVID-19. Don't blaming yourself, or others, for falling ill, or for 'putting others at risk' by being ill. 8) Rumor and misinformation feeds stigma. Don't be afraid to correct people if what they say is incorrect.
Macro level services for Anti-stigmatization policy	Social workers will utilize their efforts within micro/mezzo system; However, they will communicate with other agencies to provide a macro level services for our clients who didn't feel comfortable sharing their stories or situations. Referrals will be made to the community agencies which provide emotional and practical support services.

In conclusion, as a school we care about well-begin of the school community and must be aware that emphasizing efforts to find a vaccine and treatment can increase fear and give the impression that we are powerless to halt infections now. To combat this, we will promote content around basic infection prevention practices, symptoms of COVID-19 and when to seek health care.

if the parents or staff see students suffering negative consequences from. or having excessive fear of, the Corona virus, this should be should reported to the social worker immediately so that support can be provided.

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