

Silver Creek Middle School listserv Acceptable Use Guidelines

STATEMENT: Silver Creek Middle School listserv is an electronic message board for those affiliated with Silver Creek Middle School, owned and maintained by the SCMS PTSA. Its primary purpose is to communicate information about school events and activities, and provide a forum where members can ask questions and share ideas on education and other issues directly affecting middle school students.

While the school and the PTSA will place notices on Silver Creek Middle School listserv, it is only an informal means of distributing information and does not supplant other communications from the school or PTSA. Postings on Silver Creek Middle School listserv do not reflect the opinions or views of any entity related to the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Public Schools, or any teacher or parent organization.

MEMBERSHIP: Silver Creek Middle School listserv is open to members of the Silver Creek Middle School Community: faculty and staff, parents of students attending SCMS and students themselves. Exceptions require the approval the PTSA President or First Vice President.

APPLICABILITY: These Guidelines apply to all members of Silver Creek Middle School listserv. In joining Silver Creek Middle School listserv, members agree to abide by these Guidelines as well as the Groups.io Terms of Service and the Groups.io Guidelines.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. The subject matter of messages posted to Silver Creek Middle School listserv is primarily limited to information about school events and activities, education and issues directly affecting high school students.
2. Departments, clubs, and groups within the SCMS community should not rely on Silver Creek Middle School listserv as their primary means of communications, but should seek to develop their own internal communications tools.
3. While Silver Creek Middle School listserv is not a general interest community bulletin board, the PTSA, at its discretion, may allow posting of community events that are free, open to the public, and are of interest to high school students and their families, as well as fundraising and other events that benefit B-CC cluster schools.
4. Posting of commercial notices, business solicitations, and all other marketplace advertisements is strictly prohibited, as is the request for referrals for such products or services, except that members may request information or referrals for education and youth related services, including but not limited to tutors, test-prep, camps, study programs, etc. Replies to requests for such referrals should not be sent to Silver Creek Middle School listserv, but should be sent directly to the person requesting the information.
5. While civil discussion about issues related to the education and well-being of high school students is permitted, appropriate language, behavior and style are expected from all Silver Creek Middle School listserv members at all times and in all messages. Extended discussions between or amongst members should be taken "off-line."
6. Members may not post on behalf of anyone else other than parents for their students.

ADMINISTRATION: Ownership of Silver Creek Middle School listserv is vested in the PTSA Board of Directors. The PTSA manages Silver Creek Middle School listserv through parent /volunteer

moderators whose role is to ensure that membership is limited to those eligible to belong to Silver Creek Middle School listserv and that postings fall within the appropriate use guidelines. Those seeking to join Silver Creek Middle School listserv will be asked for their school affiliation (faculty, staff, parent, guardian, or student). Names will not be added to Silver Creek Middle School listserv without permission. The PTSA will not share membership lists or email addresses with other organizations. Only members of Silver Creek Middle School listserv can post messages, receive messages, or review messages on the Groups.io web site. Messages posted to Silver Creek Middle School listserv may be screened by PTSA appointed moderators to ensure that they are in accordance with the PTSA's guidelines. Attachments to email messages are not allowed.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Each member may express views freely; however:

1. You must sign your name to your posting and state your affiliation with SCMS.
2. You may NOT advocate on behalf of any candidate for political office or engage in legislative advocacy except as allowed under PTSA bylaws and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. You may NOT use language that constitutes libel, slander, defamatory claims, or hate speech.
4. You may NOT advocate for nor deride particular faiths or beliefs.
5. Silver Creek Middle School listserv is not the proper forum to handle a dispute with a particular teacher or to question the value of a class.

ENFORCEMENT: Repeated violations of the Guidelines may result in the restriction of status to "read only" or removal from the list-serve. For households with a student enrolled in SCMS, a change of status requires the approval of the PTSA President.

RESOURCES:

- SCMS Website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/silvercreekms/>
- SCMS PTSA Website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/silvercreekms/pta/>
- Montgomery County Public Schools Web Pages: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/>
- Groups.io Terms of Service: <https://groups.io/static/tos>

APPROVAL: PTSA Executive Committee

REVIEW CYCLE: annually, or as needed at the discretion of the PTSA Board.

APPROVAL AND REVISION HISTORY:

9/18/2018 the SCMS PTSA Board approved this document

2/3/2020 document revised to reflect migration to Groups.io