

BOUNDARIES

As a volunteer, it is absolutely essential that you practice healthy boundaries with students at all times...for their safety, and for yours. These guidelines exist to protect students from harm, and to protect you from

false allegations. Keep in mind, while these guidelines apply to your interactions with all students, they are absolutely **INDISPUTABLE** when dealing with students not of your gender.

NEVER BE ALONE WITH A STUDENT

If you need to have a private conversation with a student, have the conversation in a public place - not behind closed doors or in a room or vehicle alone. Here is a tip to help you navigate through this particular

guideline...* **MEETING WITH A STUDENT**. Do not set up one-on-one meeting with students without the knowledge and consent of their parents.

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Be wise, be wise, be wise. Maintain healthy and safe physical boundaries with students at all times. This means setting boundaries for yourself, but it may also mean setting and enforcing boundaries with students who push physical limits. If you have any questions about what is or is not appropriate, talk to our staff, and always err on the side of caution.

KEEP ELECTRONIC CONVERSATIONS

When you find yourself in the midst of a sensitive conversation with a student, keep in mind that words and intentions can be misconstrued - intentionally or unintentionally. Any time you are engaged in a serious conversation with a student, log your conversations (take screen shots, paste text into a Word document, save text messages and emails). This may seem excessive, but if you're ever falsely accused of misconduct from a student or parent, you'll be glad you did it.

REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

If a student ever says, "I need to tell you something, but you can't tell anyone," never agree. Let them know that you'll need to inform the our staff if the student is being hurt, may hurt themselves, or may hurt someone else. Be sure to read how to handle and report dangerous situations like abuse, neglect, depression, eating disorders, and suicide risk in the "What To Do If..." section, and report any of these cases (proven or potential) to our staff immediately. You are required by law to report any abuse that a student confides to you. If you don't, you are breaking the law and putting the student, yourself, and Canyon Hills in danger. Ask a pastor if you need clarification.