Connect-ED message – Page High Data Breach FOR ALL PAGE STAFF

Good afternoon, Page High staff. This is Principal Patrice Faison with important information.

GCS recently learned that on Tuesday, July 2, an employee mistakenly emailed an electronic file to the guardian of a Page student. The document contained personal information for about 456 rising seniors, including student names, addresses, telephone numbers, course enrollments, grades, district-assigned ID numbers and other data points found on student transcripts. It did not include student Social Security numbers.

GCS immediately launched an investigation, which confirmed that the information was shared with just one non-GCS person and that it was sent accidentally.

As you know, we work very hard in GCS to protect student privacy and data, and we are very sorry this happened. We will be reviewing our practices to determine whether we need to make changes to keep this from happening in the future.

Again, this only included data about rising seniors – students who just finished their junior year at Page. However, we wanted to share details with all our Page families and, of course, with you.

We know our families may have more questions and concerns about this. We have posted more detailed information on a special website, which you can access from the front page of the GCS website, as well as the Page High website. We also set up a special email address – page-records@gcsnc.com – and a phone number – 336-332-0810 – to answer questions. Page staff will monitor the email and phone line to ensure we provide accurate information to our families. In addition, we will mail letters to the families of all rising seniors.

As always, we appreciate all you do for our Page High family.

Email – Page High Data Breach FOR ALL PAGE STAFF

Dear Page High staff,

I believe it is important to share timely and accurate information whenever a situation happens that impacts our students.

GCS recently learned that on Tuesday, July 2, an employee mistakenly emailed an electronic file to the guardian of a Page student. The document contained personal information for about 456 rising seniors, including student names, addresses, telephone

numbers, course enrollments, grades, district-assigned ID numbers and other data points found on student transcripts. It did not include student Social Security numbers.

GCS immediately launched an investigation, which continued through the Fourth of July holiday and weekend. The investigation confirmed that the information was shared with just one non-GCS person and that it was sent accidentally.

As you may know, authorized personnel may keep a printed copy of student transcripts, or use an electronic file copy (PDF) of the data to answer questions, register students and complete course schedules when the secure, online access to the student database is not available. These files are used primarily during the summer, as one school year closes out and the online student data system is unavailable while it is updated for the coming year. The employee who sent the data was an authorized user.

We all work very hard in GCS to protect student privacy and data, and we are very sorry this happened. We will be reviewing our practices to determine whether we need to make changes to keep this from happening in the future.

Again, only data about rising seniors – students who just finished their junior year at Page – was shared. However, we wanted to provide this information to all our Page families and, of course, to you.

We know our families may have more questions and concerns about this. We have posted more detailed information on a special website, which you can access from the front page of the GCS website, as well as the Page High website.

We also set up a special email address – <u>pagerecords@gcsnc.com</u> – and a phone number – 336-332-0810 – to answer questions. Page staff will respond to emails and phone questions to ensure we provide accurate information to our families. In addition, we will mail letters to the families of all rising seniors.

Family members, friends and other coworkers may ask you for additional information about the situation. We encourage all Page families to contact staff through the special email address or phone number. Questions from media, members of the community or others may be referred to District Relations.

As always, we appreciate all you do to support our Page High family.

Patrice Faison
Page High Principal