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Internet Safety



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Common Sense on Internet Safety

(Reproduced from <http://www.common sense.org>)

January 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Internet is a powerful tool, and as with any tool, we must instruct our children on how to use it safely.

According to the U. S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Our children are our Nation's most valuable asset. They represent the bright future of our country and hold our hopes for a better Nation. Our children are also the most vulnerable members of society. Protecting our children against the fear of crime and from becoming victims of crime must be a national priority. Unfortunately the same advances in computer and telecommunication technology that allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and cultural experiences are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer-sex offenders."

Please review the Internet safety tips. Together we will promote Internet safety for all students.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. McGeehan

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

Tips for keeping your child safe online

1. Tell your kids:
 - >> Never share names, schools, ages, phone numbers, or addresses.
 - >> Never send pictures to strangers.
 - >> Keep passwords private (except to parents).
 - >> Don't open any mail from strangers.
 - >> If something mean or creepy happens, immediately get a grown-up.
2. Visit only age-appropriate sites. Check out the site before your kids visit. Know what features exist - chat functions, game play, virtual worlds, internet safety.
3. Search safely. Use safe search settings for young kids or filtering software to limit inappropriate exposure.
4. Avoid strangers. Tell your kids that people aren't always who they say they are in

Avoid strangers in Cyberspace!

Keep passwords private!

Do not give your personal information to anyone you do not know!

- cyberspace. If someone they don't know talks to them (outside of controlled environments like Club Penguin), tell your kids they shouldn't respond.
5. Be a good cyber citizen! Remind kids that an Internet playground is still a playground and they need to play nice. A good rule of thumb: If they wouldn't do something in real life, they shouldn't do it online. Show your kids where they can report mean behavior or unkind content.
 6. Online cheating? It's still cheating and it's a no-no - pure and simple.
 7. Keep the computer in a central place where you can see what's going on.
 8. Establish limits on the amount of time they spend online. Use a family media agreement. (Free at commonsensemedia.org)
 9. View your own habits carefully. You are their role models.
 10. Set clear rules beforehand. But mostly, be involved and have fun!