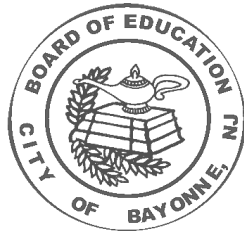




# Safely Surfing the Web

January, 2018



Dear Parent/Guardian:

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 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 harm from online predators.

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

You don't need a degree in computer science to help your child stay safe on the Internet. You just need to remember that the same basic rules you've taught your child about the real world also apply online: Don't talk to strangers, be respectful of other people, and tell me right away if something upset or scares you.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Wanko, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Internet Safety Tips for the Family

**Screen Name.** When creating your screen name, do not include personal information like your name or date of birth.

**Passwords.** Don't share your password with anyone other than a parent. Encourage children to change email and social media passwords frequently and block unknown numbers.

**Online Friends.** Don't agree to meet an online friend unless you have your parent's permission. Remember that not everyone tells the truth, especially online.

**Attachments.** Attachments sometimes contain viruses. Never open an attachment from someone you don't know.

**Bullying.** Don't send or respond to mean or insulting messages. Tell an adult if you receive one. If something makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to your parents or teacher.

**Invitations.** Warn children, of all ages, not to accept any invitations from games or challenges to play from an unknown number and not to click on unidentified links.

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