

# Parent Notice for Student Online Safety

We live in an environment that has the world literally at our fingertips. When you hand a phone/tablet over to a child, you are giving them an endless amount of power. The internet allows so much convenience and can answer almost any question we have. On the other hand, we sometimes trust that our children are on safe sites without fully investigating their use. It is important to know that many hackers, world-wide, have been able to hack into reputable children's websites and present very inappropriate information and videos to children on these sites. Please talk to your child to be sure they know to tell you if this occurs and, of course, be nearby when they are navigating their device.

The following tips offer ways to help create a safe/trusting environment that your child can explore.

We encourage parents to:

- Take social media seriously, do not downplay its power of persuasion in our kids' lives.
- If your kids are old enough to be using the computer on their own, they are old enough to understand that there are rules they need to abide by. Breaking them should not have a lesser consequence than if they broke a rule in the offline world.
- Ensure your child understands the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know. We encourage parents and guardians to remain highly engaged in monitoring their children's use of social media, websites and video games for material that could be harmful to kids.
- Let's rally together to have the children get in the habit as they have a pop up, no matter what it is, to immediately click on the X to click it off of the page. So many times a pop up may look like an innocent advertisement. Many times in these pop ups there is a hack or virus hidden that is triggered when you click on the ad or follow a prompt. This is often where children are exposed to dangerous and inappropriate material.

\*\*\*More and more studies and surveys are coming out that share the concern that our social skills are diminishing. The increased use of electronic devices are partly to blame. Sadly, it is creating a barrier between our daily interaction with one another. Please take the time to talk with your child and discuss how they are using the internet. \*\*\*