

Internet Safety and Responsibility

Respect others:

- Remember your behavior affects others. Ask yourself how you would want to be treated and treat others the same way.
- Think about how a message can be read. Typed words can hurt much more than spoken words.
- Never give out anyone's number, email or contact information without first asking them if it is okay.
- Never take pictures of anyone without their permission. Never post pictures on your sites or share them until you get permission from those in the picture.
- Remove identifying information before posting pictures. Street signs, names, school sweatshirt logos...
- Downloading and duplication of copyrighted material is illegal!
- Don't lie about your age on websites.
- Setting a social networking page to private is good, but remember who is on your friends list. Watch what you post!
- Treat interactions online like real, face-to-face conversations. Never use the anonymity of email, texting, IM, chat rooms etc. as a means of teasing or treating others cruelly.

Respect your own safety:

- Remember websites are visible to anyone!
- Full Names, personal contact information, birthdates, location should never be on profile information. Don't use your parent's or sibling's names.
- Use nicknames that don't reveal your location, gender, or age.
- In gaming, remember you don't always know who you are playing with so don't give away personal information.
- Don't post your plans or whereabouts on your site.
- Don't post sexually provocative photos.
- Refuse requests for personal information,
- Never believe anyone if they tell you how old they are. Even if you think you can ask them questions only a kid would know the answers to, it doesn't prove they're really a kid.
- If you feel scared or uncomfortable, tell an adult.
- Report bullying, obscene material or messages from people you don't know.
- Be open with your parents about what you do online.
- Educate your parents on the digital world! Don't let there be a digital divide in your family.

(continued on reverse)

Use Common Sense...

In The Digital Community:

- Anyone you do not know in person is a stranger, whether on the street, or online. Exercise the same rules of caution with strangers online.
- Only give out your cell phone number to people you know and trust.
- Never respond to messages from someone you don't know.
- Never let someone you don't know use your cell phone.
- Never meet anyone in person that you have met online or through text messaging, unless you tell someone where you are going, take someone with you and go to a public place (like a mall).
- Remember anyone can read a blog.
- Chat rooms are where most people meet strangers. Keep the relationship online and don't give out personal information.
- Advertising and scams are increasing on emails and cell phones. "If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is." *
- Add only friends you know in real life to online sites.

*Taken from Netsmartz "Teen Safety" Publication

For Digital Security:

- Use the blocking settings on your social networking sites to limit the amount of information people see.
- Block senders who harass you on the computer or by texting. Social networking sites and cell phones have blocking options under privacy settings.
- Cyberbullying is rife on the Internet and bullies are now turning to text technology to harass their victims. Text harassment is a crime and it should always be reported to the police. If the calls are merely annoying, then seek assistance from a parent or teacher
- Never respond to mean or offensive messages.
- Change passwords often and don't share them with others.
- Password protect your cellphone.