



**A GUIDE TO SAFE SURFING  
EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND RESOURCES**

## Montgomery police are investigating how middle school sexting photos were obtained

By Jenna Johnson  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

## Alleged gang member accused of exposing woman he met online to HIV

## Police arrest 15-year-old girl accused of cyberbullying in Florida

By CNN Staff

updated 11:56 PM EST, Thu November 7, 2013

Posted: 3:34 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, 2013

## Union County teen charged with cyberbullying

## 7 Grafton Teens Arrested on Felony Charges for Allegedly Cyber-Bullying

*Felony charges include witness intimidation and criminal harassment of student.*

## Spring Hill police arrest 3 juveniles for 'sexting' ring

Posted: Apr 05, 2013 10:36 AM EDT  
Updated: April 5, 2013 5:27 PM

Reported By Andy Cordan, Reporter - bio | email

Reported By Erin Holt, Reporter - bio | email

By Robert Fucci (Patch Staff)

Updated January 25, 2014 at 6:10 pm

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# Arrests Made in High School Sexting Scandal

The boy is accused of allegedly tweeting nude photos of girls. The girl is cited on a less-serious charge of distributing obscene matter

By Jason Kandel

## Waveland teen arrested for cyberbullying

Posted: Sep 26, 2013 10:55 PM EDT  
Updated: Sep 27, 2013 11:40 PM EDT

By Al Showers - bio | email

## Three teens arrested for cyber bullying classmate over weight

Posted: May 20, 2014 5:32 PM EDT  
Updated: Jun 19, 2014 5:32 PM EDT

By Dadrick Russell - bio | email



# Consequences of Cyberbullying



IN  
FOCUS  
AN ABC2 PRODUCTION

# Texting and Social Media Use

- Currently, the global population is **7 billion**.
- On average, over 23 billion text messages are sent and received every day (more than triple the population of the planet).  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/03/tech/mobile/sms-text-message-20/>
- Teens (age 12-17) send an average of **60 texts per day**.
- Older teens (ages 14-17) send an average of **100 texts per day**.  
[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP\\_Teens\\_Smartphones\\_and\\_Texting.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP_Teens_Smartphones_and_Texting.pdf)
- Facebook has 1+ billion active users, Twitter has 241 million, and Instagram has 200 million. <https://leveragenewagemedia.com/blog/social-media-infographic/>

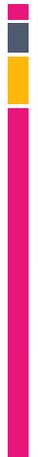


# The Internet...

- Used by 95% of teens, with 75% of teens ages 12-17 being “mobile internet users”
- A network where information moves at the speed of light
- A resource for education and entertainment
- Not regulated nor controlled by any one entity



# Who is Your Child's Trusted Adult?

- What is a real friend?
  - What is an online friend? – Stranger Danger
  - Who would your child go to if they needed help or advice?
  - Would you let your child drive a car without a driver's license?
  - Would you give your child unlimited access to the internet without educating them?
    - Car Safety
    - Party / Alcohol Safety
- 



# The Internet...

- Allows children to experiment with identity, interests etc.
    - A child can be treated like an adult
  - Allows for more self-expression
  - Can be easier to communicate over rather than in-person
  - Is free
    - Copyright issues
    - Plagiarism issues
  - Has more tools than the physical world
  - Is public and permanent
- 

# Parents & Schools Have a Responsibility to...

- Educate children about the internet's SAFE and APPROPRIATE use
- Instil a sense of CAUTION, not a sense of FEAR





# WHY IS INTERNET SAFETY IMPORTANT?



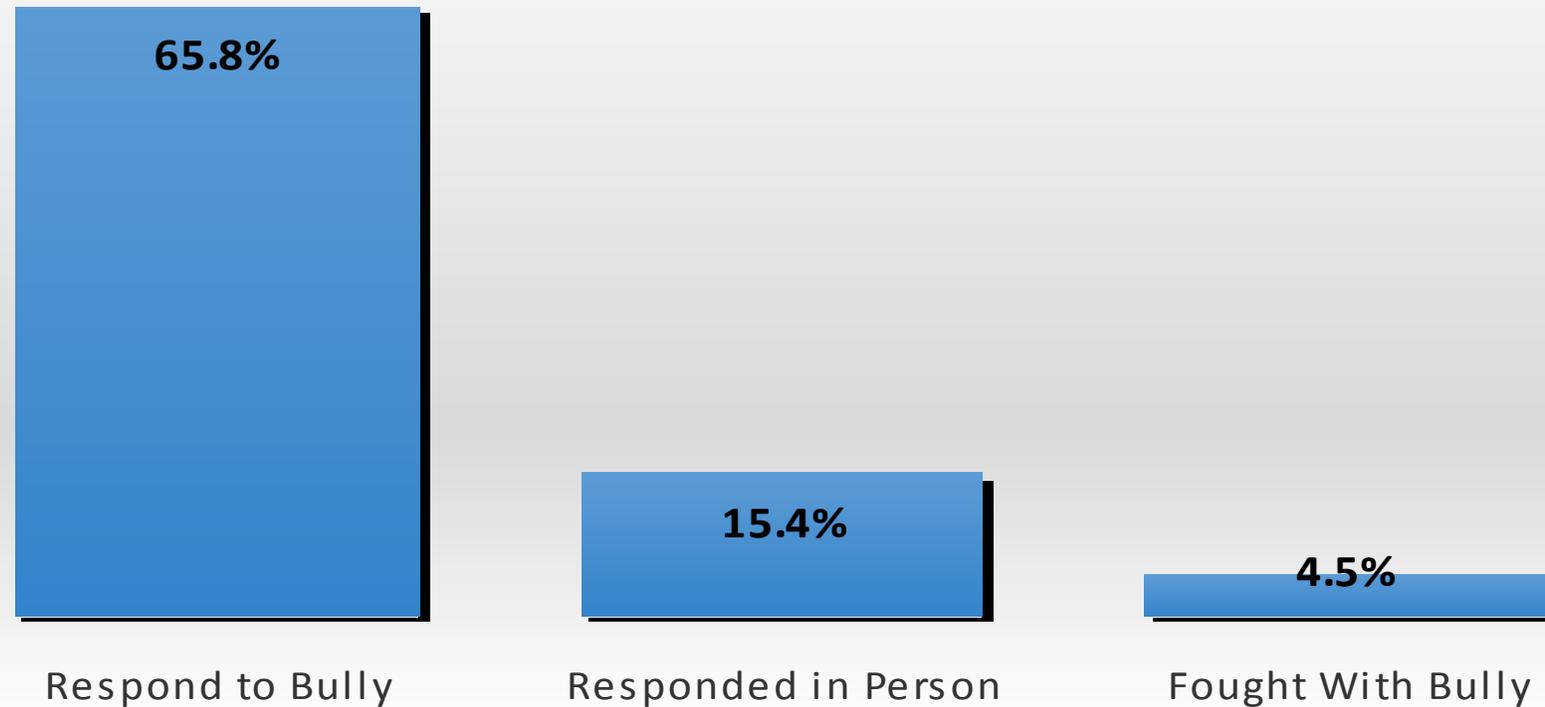


# Online Risks

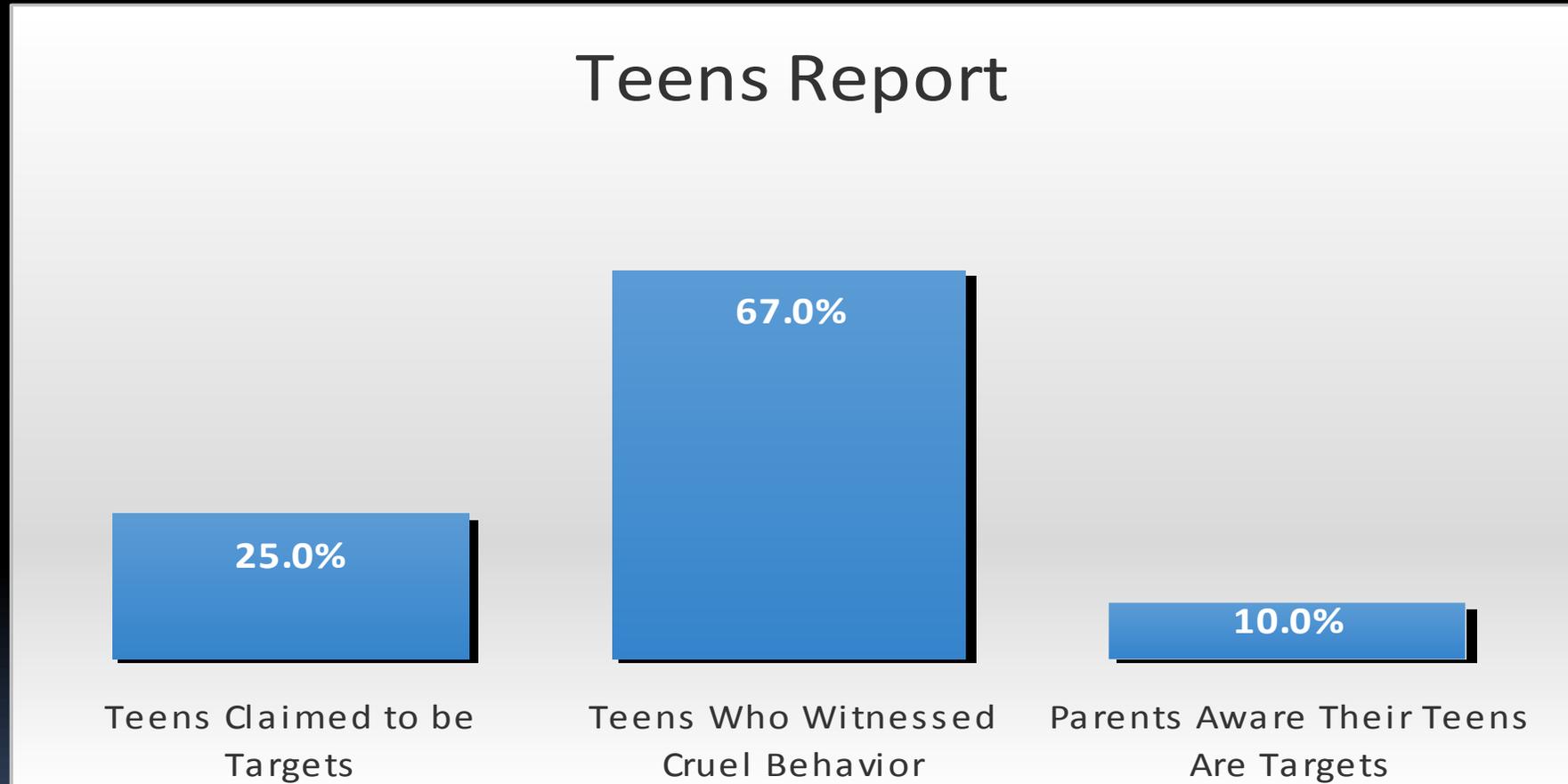
- Revealing Too Much – Privacy Issues
  - Online Predators
  - Sexting
  - Cyberbullying
  - Exposure to Inappropriate Material
  - Spyware, Spam, and Scams
- 

# How Do Teens Respond?

## Teens' Response to Cyber Bullying

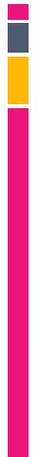


# Do Teens Report Cyberbullying?

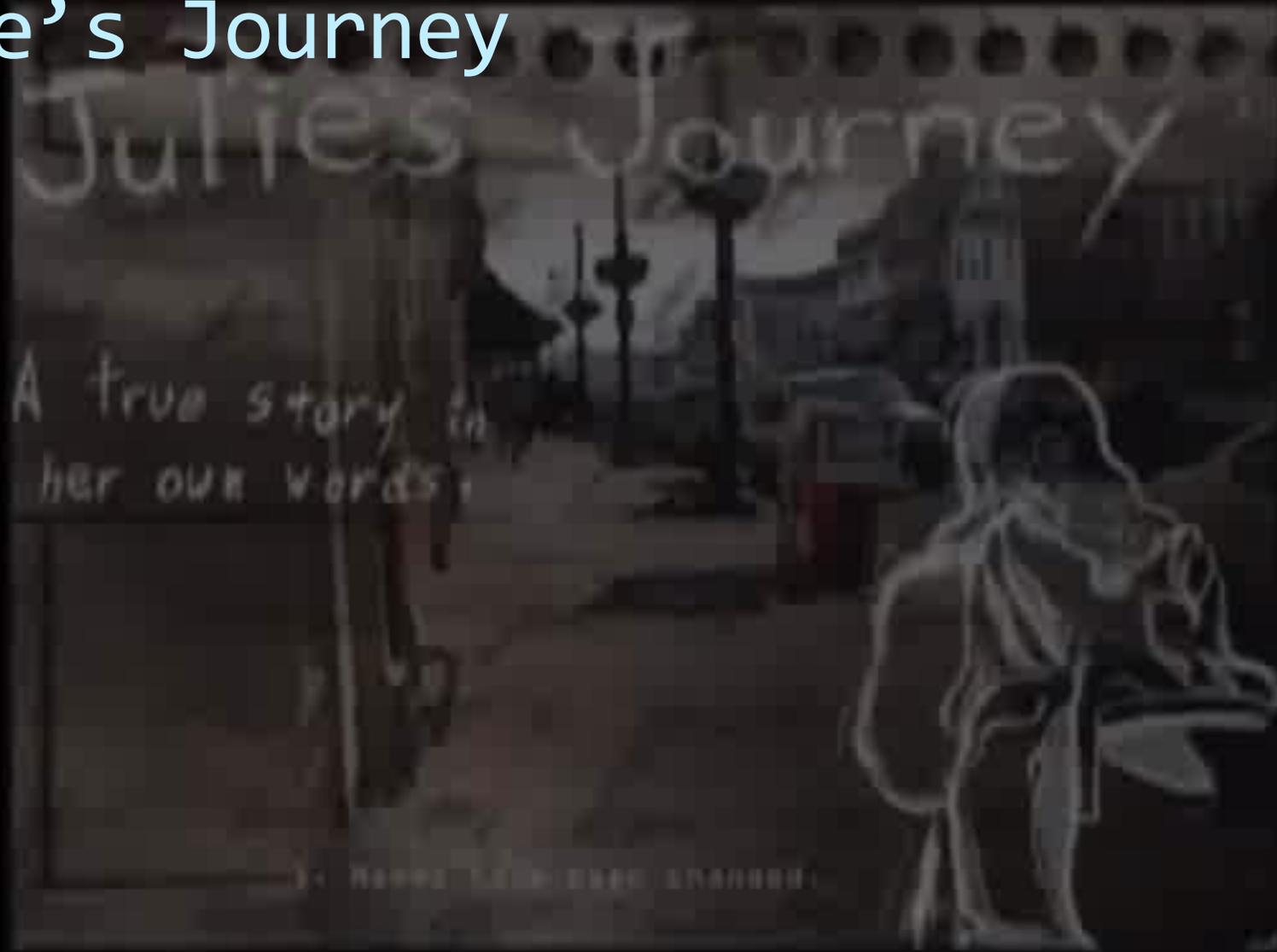




# Objectives

- Be social media savvy
  - Understand what your children are doing online
  - Talk to your children about potential dangers online
  - Help your children start, or continue, their digital footprint on a positive note
- 

# Julie's Journey





# SOCIAL MEDIA

# Social Media and YOUR CHILDREN

- Social Media Sites have exploded in popularity during the past few years
- People are more connected than ever before
  - Teens stay connected outside of school and share things with their friends



# Some Social Media Sites



- Facebook
  - Allows users to share pictures, messages, videos etc. with friends
- Twitter
  - 140-character "tweets"
- Instagram
  - Picture-sharing
- Vine
  - Six-second video application owned by Twitter
- Snapchat
  - Self-destructive picture sharing
- Kik
  - Messaging app
  - Requires password, unlike phones
- Tinder
  - Online dating application



# Dangers of Social Media

- Anything you put on social media will never go away
    - Even Snapchat – pictures can be screenshotted
  - Bullying via social media is easier to hide than bullying in person
  - Can offer bullies a public and anonymous way to torment their victims
  - Anonymity Empowers Bullies
    - Social media sites can require one to accept friend requests from people, but they may not be who you think they are
- 



# Revealing Too Much

- Personal information that can reveal your identity and location:
    - Name, age, birthday, address, phone number, schedule, school
  - Photos and videos should never be posted online if they show
    - Backgrounds that reveal identifying information
    - Sexually provocative poses
    - Too much skin
    - Inappropriate or illegal activity
- 

# Responsible Social Media Use

- Explore social media sites with children before allowing them to access them
- Utilize strong privacy settings
- Make sure children know that they can tell you if they are being bullied on social media



# Privacy Settings: Facebook

The image shows two screenshots of the Facebook interface. The top screenshot shows the account menu for 'Nys Mecc' with 'Privacy Settings' highlighted by a red arrow. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Choose Your Privacy Settings' page. A red arrow points to the 'Friends Only' option in the 'Sharing on Facebook' section, and another red arrow points to the 'Apply These Settings' button at the bottom right.

**Choose Your Privacy Settings**

**Basic Directory Information**  
To help real world friends find you, some basic information is open to everyone. We also suggest setting basics like hometown and interests to everyone so friends can use those to connect with you. [View settings](#)

**Sharing on Facebook**

|   | Everyone | Friends of Friends | Friends Only |
|---|----------|--------------------|--------------|
| My status, photos, and posts  |          |                    | •            |
| Bio and favorite quotations   |          |                    | •            |
| Family and relationships  |          |                    | •            |
| Photos and videos I'm tagged in   |          |                    | •            |
| Religious and political views   |          |                    | •            |
| Birthday  |          |                    | •            |
| Can comment on posts  |          |                    | •            |
| Email addresses and IM  |          |                    | •            |
| Phone numbers and address   |          |                    | •            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Let friends of people tagged in my photos and posts see them. |          |                    |              |
| <a href="#">Customize settings</a>  |          |                    |              |

**Apply These Settings**

**Applications and Websites**  
Edit your settings for using applications, games and websites.

**Block Lists**  
Edit your lists of blocked people and applications.

**Controlling How You Share**  
Learn more about your privacy on Facebook.

# What is Geotagging?

- “GEO-TAGS” – data embedded within some files sent online
  - Post an image with this embedded data to the web and it can show:
    - Date
    - Time Stamp on the image file (time the photo was taken)
    - EXACT location within a few feet of where the photo was taken.
- Applications with geo-tags:
  - Instagram
  - Skype
  - Google Chat



# SEXTING



Once You Post It...

GO WILDCATS!!

A photograph of a busy school hallway. A large yellow banner with the text "GO WILDCATS!!" in blue, hand-painted letters hangs from the ceiling. Students are walking in both directions. In the foreground, a girl in a green shirt is smiling and looking at her phone, while another girl in a brown jacket looks down at hers. A boy with a red backpack is walking away from the camera. The hallway has white walls, doors, and a tiled floor.



# What is Sexting?

- Sexting is the exchange of sexually suggestive messages or images between minors via cell phone
  - Ex: Girl takes a nude picture of herself and sends it to her boyfriend
- This is potentially a crime
  - Naked picture of a minor = possession of child pornography
  - Minor sending naked pictures to boyfriend = distribution of child pornography



# Who is Sexting?

- 22% of teen girls and 18% of teen boys have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves
- 39% of teens have sent or posted sexually explicit images
- 71% of girls and 67% of boys have sent sexually suggestive content to a boyfriend or girlfriend

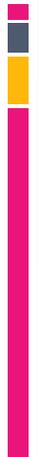


# Why do Teens Sext?

- Celebrities have done it
- As a means of “flirting”
- To feel sexy
- To increase social status
- Peer pressured
- They don’t believe the recipient would share the photos
- Unaware of the long-term consequences



# What your child posts online can lead to severe consequences...

- Suspension from school
  - Denied participation in extracurricular activities
  - Denied college admission/rescinded college acceptance
  - Denied employment
  - Bullying and Cyberbullying
- 

# ONLINE PREDATORS





# THOMAS PERRERA

- 16-year old student meets “18-year old” online through Facebook
  - Relationship is nurtured and developed online
  - “18-year old” is actually 26-year old HIV positive gang member looking to infect teenage girls
  - Defendant arrested
    - Four other teenage victims located
  - Charged with knowingly exposing others to the HIV virus and reckless endangerment
  - Recently released from incarceration
  - “He looked like a nice guy”
- 

# Online Predators

- Predators can access the same websites and applications as your children
- Predators defy stereotypes:
  - Male or female
  - Any age
  - Any profession
  - Experts at “grooming” methods





# What is “Grooming”?

- The criminal activity of becoming friends with a child, especially over the internet, in order to try to persuade the child to have a sexual relationship with you
- 



# Online Enticement

- To entice your children, predators
  - Offer attention and affection
  - Send money and gifts
  - Persuade them to keep the relationship secret
  - Talk about inappropriate and sexual topics
  - Send sexually explicit images
  - Ask to meet in person
  - Are patient when developing a relationship



# CYBERBULLYING

CYBERBULLYING

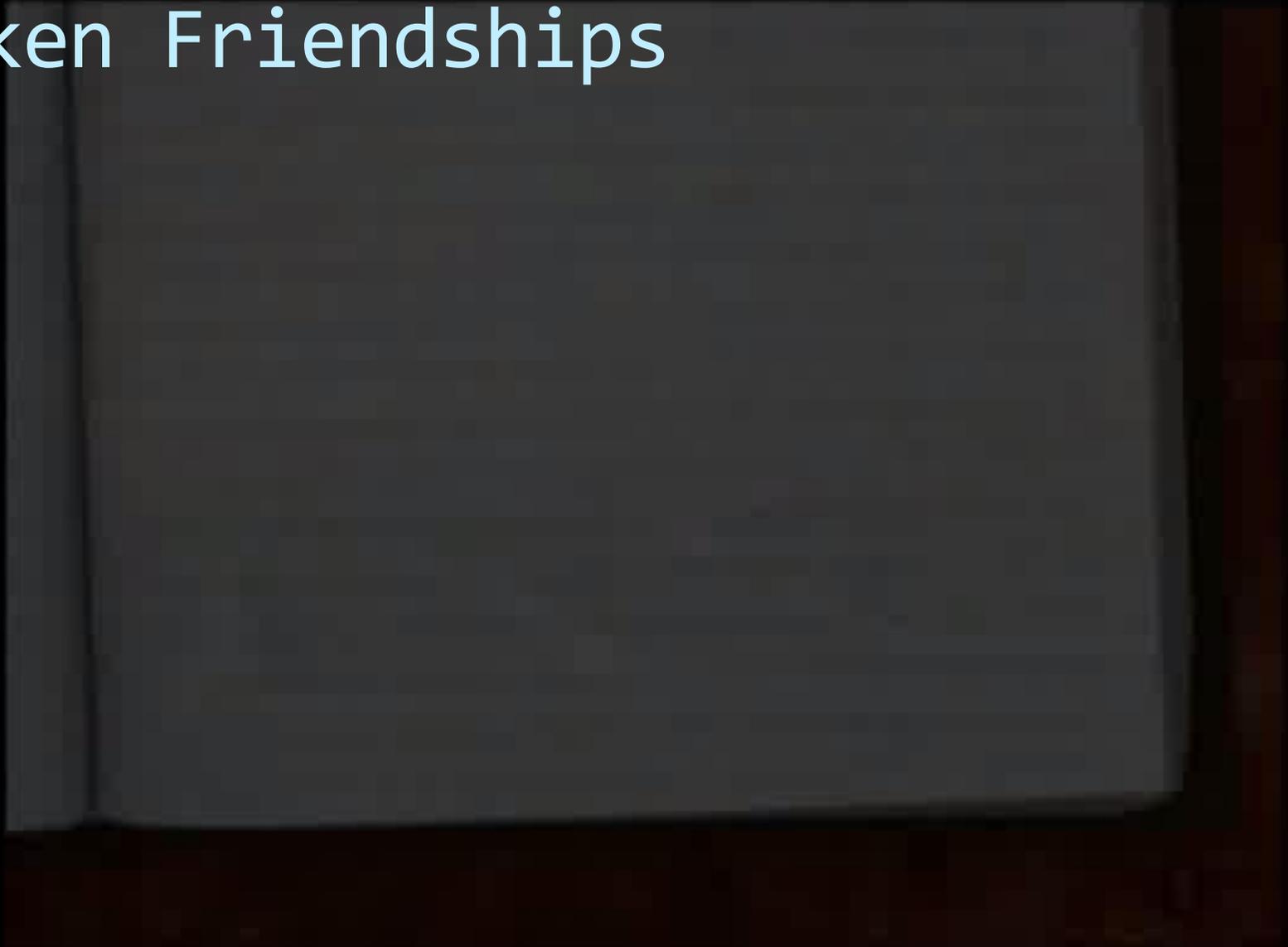


# What is Cyberbullying?

- Bullying through Internet applications and technologies such as instant messaging (IM), social networking sites, and cell phones
  - Can start easily—with a rumor, a photo, or a forwarded message—and just as easily spiral out of control
- 



# Broken Friendships



# What is Cyberbullying?

- Spreading rumors and gossip
- Posting pictures without consent
- Stealing passwords to assume someone's identity
- Harassing or threatening with offensive language





## BULLYING

vs

## CYBERBULLYING

- At/outside of school
  - Direct
  - Limited audience
- Anywhere/anytime
  - Can be anonymous
  - Larger audience
  - Spreads quickly
  - Permanent record
- 



# Dealing With Cyberbullying

- Who is your child's trusted adult?
  - It is imperative that parents and students report unsafe incidents to law enforcement so that offenders can be apprehended and prosecuted.
  - We need to have tough conversations with our children at the appropriate time
- 



# Why Cyberbully?

- Reasons cyberbullies said they engaged in cyberbullying:
  - To show off to friends 11%
  - To be mean 14%
  - To embarrass them 21%
  - For fun/entertainment 28%
  - "They deserved it" 58%
  - To get back at someone 58%
  - Other 16%
- 81% of youth agree that bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person
- 80% think it is easier to hide online bullying from parents than in-person bullying



# Technology Aids Cyberbullies

- Allows cyberbullies to be anonymous and never physically confront victims
  - Allows bullies to torment their victims through various means (various apps/websites)
  - Makes it difficult to trace the source
  - Encourages bullies to behave more aggressively than a traditional “physical world” bully
    - Fewer social limitations online
- 



# Possible Emotional Consequences of Cyberbullying

- Negative (or even destructive) emotional effects on victims, ranging from hurt feelings to intense anger
- Significant depression
  - In the most severe cases has even resulted in suicide



Unfortunately, children *rarely* report occurrences to an adult.



# CYBERBULLYING WARNING SIGNS



# Warning Signs that your Child is the Victim of Cyberbullying

- Avoiding computer, cell phone, and other devices
- Appearing stressed when receiving e-mail, instant messages or text messages
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Increased sadness, anger, frustration, reduced tolerance and worry
- Declining grades
- Eating and/or sleeping changes



# Warning Signs that your Child May be Cyberbullying Others

- Prior involvement in bullying, or the target of bullying
- Switching screens or closing programs when you, or others, are nearby
- Using multiple online accounts or an account that is not his or her own
- Excessive use of a computer and/or cell phone
- Agitation if access to a computer or cell phone is restricted or denied



# DEALING WITH CYBERBULLYING





# Dealing with Cyberbullying as a Parent

- Discourage your child from responding to the cyberbullying
  - Preserve evidence to try and identify the cyberbully
  - Attempt to block the cyberbully from contacting you via Internet/phone settings
  - Contact your child's school if it is related to school in any way
- 



# Dealing with Cyberbullying as a Parent

- Contact the cyberbully's parents, if known
  - Read MCPS website or go to school and fill out bullying form
  - Contact an attorney in cases of serious cyber bullying
    - Civil law may provide for a remedy, if other efforts fail
  - Contact the police to pursue criminal remedies if cyber bullying involves acts such as: threats of violence; extortion; obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages; harassment, stalking, or hate crimes; or child pornography
- 



# THE LAWS





# Misuse of Electronic Mail

Md. Criminal Law Code Ann. 3-805

- Prohibited - A person may not maliciously engage in a course of conduct, through the use of electronic communication, that alarms or seriously annoys another:
    - (i) with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy the other;
    - (ii) after receiving a reasonable warning or request to stop by or on behalf of the other; and
    - (iii) without a legal purpose.
- 

# Grace's Law (Misuse of Interactive Computer Service)

Subsections (a)(3) and (b)(2) of Md. Criminal Law Code Ann. 3-805 (Misuse of Electronic Mail)

- In honor of Grace McComas
  - 15 –year-old Howard County teen
  - Committed suicide on Easter Sunday 2012 after repeated cyberbullying through social media websites
- Previous law – only criminalized direct communication (like email)
  - Not indirect postings on social media



# Harassment

*Md. Criminal law* Code Ann. § 3-803

- Prohibited. -- A person may not follow another in or about a public place or maliciously engage in a course of conduct that alarms or seriously annoys the other:
    - with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy the other;
    - after receiving a reasonable warning or request to stop by or on behalf of the other; and
    - without a legal purpose.
- 



# Possible Sentences in the State of Maryland

- Cyberbullying
- Misuse of Electronic Mail – Grace’s Law
  - Up to 1 year in jail and/or up to \$500
- Possible Interstate Nature
  - Not all states have cyberbullying legislation
  - A federal agency could pick up charges due to interstate nature
  - One can be prosecuted even if home state doesn’t have legislation

# Possible Sentences in the State of Maryland

- Sexting
- Possession of Sexually Explicit Material
  - Retain an image/video of a child under 16
  - Up to 5 years in prison and/or up to \$2,500 fine
    - Subsequent sentence: up to 10 years and/or up to \$10,000 fine
- Sharing Obscene Material with a Minor
  - Up to 1 year in jail and/or up to \$1,000 fine
    - Subsequent sentence: up to 3 years and/or up to \$5,000 fine
- Child Pornography
  - Up to 10 years and/or up to \$25,000
    - Subsequent sentence: up to 20 years and/or up to \$50,000 fine



# Other Potential Crimes...

- Stalking
- Identity Fraud
- Willful Disturbance
  - Threats of bodily harm
- Possession/Distribution of Child Pornography
  - Sexting can be this



**WHAT CAN YOU  
DO?**





# Set Your Own Rules

- Establish rules for Internet use
  - What sites can your child visit?
  - Who can they talk to?
  - How much time can they spend online?
- Keep the computer in a common room (not in secluded areas like a bedroom or basement)

*Remember: Instill a sense of caution,  
not a sense of fear.*





# Safer Social Networking

- Make your own profile and explore the site
  - Learn the site's safety features
  - Have children use privacy settings
  - Examine their list of friends and browse their friends' pages
- 



# Guided Access

- As a parent you can place a lock on any app until you give permission to them to utilize other apps.
    - Look under settings then guided access on a phone.
- 



# Social Contract

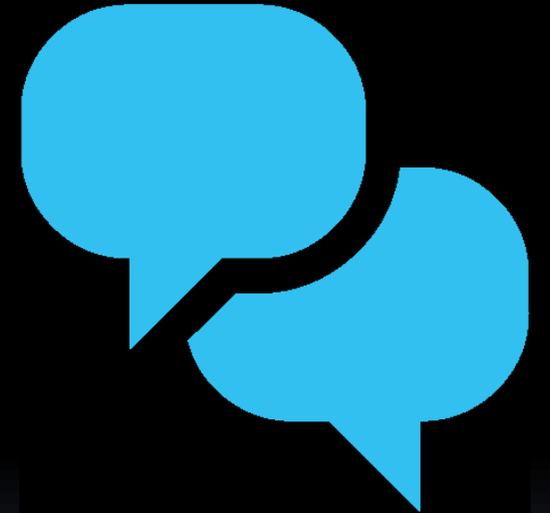
- Establish a verbal agreement that rewards your child's behavior with internet access.



Parenting in the digital age: Real tips to help kids (and parents) today.

# Communicate

- Be open with your children and encourage them to confide in you
- Prepare yourself beforehand
- Discuss the importance of telling you or a trusted adult if anything ever makes your child feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused while online





# Too Much Technology?

- Talk to your child about academic, legal, and moral consequences of actions
- Encourage your child to tell you about inappropriate things
- Ask your child questions about what they think is appropriate
- Tell your child to speak out if they are being harassed or bullied
  - Tell a trusted adult
  - Your child's school is a valuable resource!
- The internet is increasing in popularity and it will continue to increase; it is essential to keep up.



# INTERNET SAFETY TIPS





# Internet Safety Tips

- Discuss importance of being a good digital citizen
  - Set limits on his/her screen time
  - Familiarize yourself with web sites your child is visiting
  - Educate yourself about your child's online activities
  - Discuss why your child should never give out:
    - Password
    - Identifying information
  - Make sure your child knows never to meet someone they met online face-to-face
  - Explain the consequences
- 



# Teach Children to Remember the 4 R's

- **Recognize** techniques used by online predators to deceive their victims.
- **Refuse** requests for personal information.
- **Respond** assertively if you are ever in an uncomfortable situation while online. Exit the program, log off or turn off the computer
- **Report**, to a parent or other trusted adult, any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you uncomfortable.



# RESOURCES





# MCPS Resources

- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety/>
- Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>
- CyberSafety hotline: 301-279-3669
- [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)
- [cybersafety@mcpsmd.org](mailto:cybersafety@mcpsmd.org)





# MCPS Cyber Civility Task Force

- Develops strategies to raise awareness of the need for cyber civility in how our students and adults communicate online
  - Guides the creation of tools for schools, teachers, parents, students, and community members that encourage conversations about cyber civility
- 



# Resources

- [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)
  - [www.commonensemedia.org](http://www.commonensemedia.org)
  - [www.fosi.org](http://www.fosi.org)
  - [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)
  - [www.athinline.org](http://www.athinline.org)
  - Cyber Tipline: 1-800-843-5678
- 



# Resources

- <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>
  - <http://www.missingkids.com/cybertip>
  - <http://nypl.org/legal/safety.cfm>
  - <http://www.safekids.com/>
  - <http://www.safeteens.com>
- 



**QUESTIONS?**