



ITHACA
School District

'HOME OF THE BULLDOGS'



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Our Vision: Building the Future, One Student at a Time

Dear Parents:

It has come to our attention that some of our students are talking about a viral internet game that is an anonymous cyber-bullying challenge. It appears that the game is accessed through Facebook or WhatsApp. The Momo challenge starts with simple challenges like waking up at odd hours of the night or overcoming a fear. The challenges eventually escalate to more serious, violent acts, and request photos for proof of task completion. According to news outlets, children as young as six have been affected by this fictional character and challenge.

Please be aware that social media is blocked on our Chromebooks so things like Facebook are not accessible; however, if they search for Momo game, Momo, or Momo challenge, the news stories surrounding this new trend are available.

The character pictured below is also showing up in other mediums such as computer or phone games and is being linked in with other internet creations like Slenderman, called creepypastas. Creepypastas are horror-related legends or images that have been copied and pasted around the Internet. These Internet entries are often brief, user-generated, paranormal stories intended to scare readers. They include gruesome tales of murder, suicide, and otherworldly occurrences.

Please remember to have a talk with your children about Internet and app safety. This "game" is believed to be a way for people to hack accounts and is psychologically manipulative towards kids and teens. Be observant of mood changes, withdrawing from social life and family, a rise in anger, and any other signs of depression.

A parent resource regarding this particular topic can be found online here:
<https://educateempowerkids.org/5461-2/>

As always, if you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or an administrator.

Thank you,
Mrs. Prouty
Mr. Lechnir
Mrs. Schoen



It is the policy of the Ithaca School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, color, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.