Saline Area Schools

Cybersafety & Digital Citizenship/Leadership - Staff Resources

Technology plays an integral role in the classroom every day. The Internet is an amazing resource that provides easy access to millions of websites with information, video, music, pictures, games, and much, much more. Through the Internet, students can find and share information, learn concepts, and connect with people from around the world.

Online student safety is a priority in our district. Saline Area Schools has implemented the Stop. Think. Connect! campaign which is a national public awareness campaign conducted by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Alliance. This campaign is about providing an easy way for students to remember key statements that should be thought through before going online:

- ❏ STOP: Before you go online, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.
- ❏ THINK: Take time to think about the places you are visiting online, the information you are sharing and the communities you are participating in. Always watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact your safety or others.
- ❏ CONNECT: If you have taken the time to STOP & THINK, then you can CONNECT online with greater confidence and enjoy knowing that you've taken the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.

Additionally, to help protect students from online missteps and abuses, Saline Area Schools staff should model proper cybersafety practices related to:

- identity safety
- cyberbullying
- cyberpredators
- piracy and plagiarism
- inappropriate content
- social network

Listed below are important resources to consider using in your classroom to support cybersafety, cybersecurity and cyberethics:

- Netsmartz - http://www.netsmartz.org
    - Educators Button
        - teaching materials & presentations
    - Kids Button
        - activity & video of the month
        - videos & games
    - Tweens Button
        - videos about cyberbullying, gaming, meeting offline, etc.
        - games and comics
        - quizzes
    - Teens Button
        - real-life stories

        - teens talk back
        - peer discussion materials
- Common Sense Media - https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators
    - digital literacy & citizenship curriculum on Nearpod
    - digital passport for Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12
    - teacher video training
    - parent resources - mobile apps, connecting families and family toolbox

SAS hosted a School and Family Partnership Series session on October 11, 2023 focusing on Strategies for Supporting Student Wellness: Starting with Social Media and Digital Devices.

- Dr. Jen Radesky from the University of Michigan focused on families with children Y5-3rd grade.
    - Session Slide Deck: Healthy Relationships with Media PK-3rd Grade
- Robin Batten from Washtenaw Area Council for Children focused on families with students in grades 4-12, with an emphasis on cyber security and cyberbullying. The following resources were shared:
    - Washtenaw Area Council for Children: Parent Tips
    - Federal Trade Commission: Net Cetera- Chatting with kids about being online
    - Center for Missing and Exploited Children:
        - Internet Safety at Home
        - Gaming Safely (Spanish version)
        - Sextortion: What Parents Should Know (Spanish version)

Remember, Michigan Has Laws!

- **Cybersafety**
    - Michigan law prohibits a person from contacting another individual with the intent to frighten or harass that individual (up to 1 year, or 5 years if involving a “credible threat of death”).
    - Michigan law also separately prohibits using a computer to communicate with any person for the purpose of stalking (up to 2 years in prison).
    - A 2001 law criminalizes the posting of personal or embarrassing information about another person without their consent (up to 2 years in prison).
    - Michigan cyberbullying law went into effect at the beginning of 2019 which makes cyberbullying a crime punishable by jail time. If found guilty, a person can be charged criminally. After a first offense, those found guilty of cyberbullying may receive up to 90 days of jail time. Second offenses can be up to a year. In extreme cases, cyberbullying may be escalated to the felony level.

- **Sexting**
    - A teen who has self-produced and distributed sexually explicit images could be charged with prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure or child pornography.
        - knowingly producing - up to 20 years
        - knowingly distributing - up to 7 years

        - knowingly possessing - up to 4 years
        - soliciting a minor (under 16) for immoral purposes - up to 4 years
    - Whoever took the photo would be charged with “producing”.
    - Charges can result in jail, probation, and/or listing on Sex Offender Registry.

- Revised 11/2023