





**CyberSafety and Social Media
Parents Guidance Matters**



Computers and Internet

<p>Tips</p> 	<p>Conversation Starters</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep computers in high traffic areas. • Establish limits to which sites to visit and for how long. • Monitor cell phone, gaming devices, laptops, tablets. • Surf with your children and let them show you what they like to do online. • Know who is connecting to your children and set rules for social networking, online gaming, and use of webcams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your favorite online sites? Why? What do you use them? • What is personal information? Why should you keep it private? • What would you do if anyone online asked to meet you face-to-face? • Besides me, who do you feel that you can talk to if you are in an uncomfortable or scary situation?

Cell Phones, Internet, Apps

<p>Tips</p> 	<p>Conversation Starters</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand an app's purpose before your child downloads it. Who are users? What are privacy settings? • Establish rules for when your children are allowed to use their cellphones and what sites and apps they can download. • Remind your children that anything they send from their phones can be easily forwarded and shared. • Talk to your child about possible consequences of sending mean, provocative, or sexually explicit text messages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you use your phone for the most? • Can you show me some of your favorite apps? • Do you know everyone you have as a contact in your phone and on different apps? • Has anyone taken an embarrassing picture of someone else and sent it to you? What did you do with it? • About how many texts do you receive and send in a day? • Do you know how to turn off GPS and turn on privacy settings for the different apps you use?

Signs Your Child May Bullied or Connecting with an Online Predator

<p>Tips</p> 	<p>Conversation Starters</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child becomes withdrawn and isolated from family and friends. • You find inappropriate material on the computer or cell phone. • Your child receives mail, money, or gifts from unknown people. • You see unknown phone numbers when reviewing your bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you usually talk to online? • What could happen if you meet in person with someone you have only known online? • Has anyone that you know met anyone that they connected with online? • If you see something online that is hurtful to a friend or someone in your school, what would you do?

Communication and Relationships are KEY

Think
before
you post!

Resources

MCPS (type Cybersafety in the Search Box)

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety/>

NetSmartz (resources for students and parents of all ages)

<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>



Reporting

1. Make it clear that the victim is not at fault
2. Save all evidence of victimization such as instant message conversations, postings, e-mails

Contact

- **Montgomery County Public Schools CyberSafety**
CyberSafety@mcpsmd.org
- **Montgomery County Police Department Family Crimes Division**
240-773-5400
- **CyberTipline**
1-800-THE LOST
www.cybertipline.com