

Safety Tips

There are six simple rules you and your child need to remember:

- Don't post your personal information
- Don't post personal pictures or videos
- Never put online friends' information on your profile
- Don't respond to anyone who makes you feel uncomfortable
- Tell your parents if anyone makes you uncomfortable and then tell the authorities
- People LIE online!

Above all, remember: The more a predator can find out about you, the more likely they are to track you down and harm you.

Online Resources

- ▶ www.netismartz.org – this site is an excellent resource provided by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). It contains interactive, educational activities to assist parents, guardians, educators and law enforcement with teaching children ages 5-17 how to stay safer on the Internet
 - ▶ www.cybertipline.com - a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation Reports may be made 24-hours per day, 7 days per week
- *Recommended by the US Attorney General**

Internet Safety Workshop

The Internet is a valuable educational and social resource for children. Many students are knowledgeable about the social networking sites or personal pages such as MySpace and Facebook and are familiar with these through sharing with their close friends and family. However, the Internet can also expose our children to danger through their discovery of inappropriate materials and experiences.

On Wednesday, November 28th Matt Dummermuth from the U.S. Attorney's office visited with all Bishop Heelan 6th – 8th graders at Mater Dei's gymnasium about internet safety. Based on experience while prosecuting criminals and sexual predators, he shared important and even life-saving tips for middle school students. SEE SAFETY TIPS AT LEFT!

For kids, the Internet and associated technologies are a rich environment that includes not only Web browsers and e-mail but also instant messaging, chat rooms, peer-to-peer connections, Usenet groups, MP3 (digital audio) players, and wireless devices such as cell phones and PDAs (personal digital assistants, such as Palm Pilots). Kids can access the Web from home, friend's homes, school, libraries, Internet cafes, coffee shops, and wireless, all of which makes direct supervision difficult.

A foundational component of Internet safety education is parent involvement and supervision. Parents should become aware of the types of good and bad material and experiences that are available online; their son's or daughter's experience online may be vastly different from their own. For that matter, a child's experience away from school could also differ dramatically with that in the classroom.

An acceptable use policy (AUP), an Internet-use "contract" in the form of a written set of guidelines commonly found in schools but also relevant to home use, is another useful educational tool. While these agreements may vary in form, they usually contain the basic elements. Most importantly, using an AUP with a child provides parents with a great opportunity to have some extended conversations about what acceptable use really means in the home in practice.

Check out: http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/library/ParentNews_IntSafety_May2006.pdf