



our Lady of Perpetual Help catholic school

8970 Highway 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037

February 27, 2018

Parents,

We have had quite a few social media concerns brought to our attention the past few months. While we are educating our students during school about the dangers of social media and the precautions that should be taken, we would like to partner with you in this endeavor. The better educated we all are on social media, the way children and teens are using phones, and the legality issues surrounding cell phone usage, the safer our children will be. We will also have a discussion about this at our upcoming Co-op meeting at 7pm on Thursday, March 8 in the cafeteria.

The purpose of this communication is to keep parents better informed about the latest apps, programs, and safety issues around those apps and programs. Many of these apps/programs seem benign on the surface. However, students themselves have even expressed concern about them. Even YouTube has been a challenge to monitor for content and supervise what your child is creating/uploading. After doing a little research, I wanted to pass on the enclosed information. Also, if you have the opportunity to view the movie "Screenager," please take the time to do so! <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/>

Attached is a newsletter outlining some common apps used by teens. I found this newsletter here: <http://www.cclcounseling.com/newsletter.html>

Common Sense Media is a great website for resources. Here is a link to the Parent Concerns page: <https://www.common sense media.org/parent-concerns>

You can also find the following on Common Sense Media

- Review of Snapchat: <https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/snapchat/user-reviews/adult>
- The Science behind the addiction and information on Snapchat "Streaks:" <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/the-sneaky-science-behind-your-kids-tech-obsessions>
- Social Media Information: <https://www.common sense media.org/social-media>

To address issues around YouTube, please visit the following websites:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/learning-with-technology/is-it-ok-for-my-kid-to-start-her-own-youtube-channel>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-39381889>
- <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/a-parents-ultimate-guide-to-youtube>

Lastly, following are two links that give access to information regarding apps, computer programs, and other items for you to be able to use as a guide to help you make educated decisions:

- This is a MUST READ! <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/16-apps-and-websites-kids-are-heading-to-after-facebook#>

- How to Make Social Media Positive For Your Teen: <https://forcefield.me/positive-social-media/>
- <https://educateempowerkids.org/dangerous-apps-2017/>
- <https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/mobile-apps/safety-beyond-facebook-12-social-media-apps-every-parent-should-know-about>
- https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-12-apps-that-every-parent-of-a-teen-should-know-about_us_56c34e49e4b0c3c55052a6ba
- <http://www.schoolfamily.com/school-family-articles/article/10644-8-steps-to-peace-of-mind-online>
- <http://www.carefulparents.com>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-guide/>
- <https://forcefield.me/how-to-find-hidden-apps-on-your-childs-phone-forcefield/>
- <https://foreverymom.com/mom-gold/parents-kids-10-dangerous-apps-time-hit-delete/>

It is imperative that parents today be aware of the social media activities of their children. Parents should follow their children on social media to further prevent the posting of inappropriate material and/or communications. With the use of social media comes legal repercussions. Inappropriate content shared with, to, or by your child can create legal matters for both your child and you. Parents are legally responsible for their child's phone use, especially when it involves social media with age restrictions. Furthermore, safety awareness has been heightened since the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on February 14. ***Therefore, it is vitally important to speak to your child about any message that is sent through social media regarding comments that reference threats of bodily harm. We CANNOT take any threat lightly nor will we create a teachable moment around such threats. The teachable moment is NOW, before any post is made or message is shared. Please speak to your child about appropriate ways to express frustration with themselves or others.*** Words like kill, stab, shoot, and/or statements with intention to hurt or harm will be dealt with as follows:

1. First offense: The student will be immediately sent home and suspended for one day.
2. Second offense: The student will be immediately sent home and suspended for two days.
3. Third offense: The student will be immediately sent home and may result in a 5-day suspension with a mandated psychological evaluation and/or an automatic expulsion.

In all three offenses, Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office will be notified and a psychological evaluation may be mandated before your child may return to school.

Many blessings,



Kirsch J. Wilberg

Principal