



# NEWLOTHROP AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 5, 2021

Dear Parents,

We want to take time to ask our elementary and high school parents to have conversations this weekend with students about internet safety and social media. Administration has been alerted of a potential concern about inappropriate content circulating on snapchat that could be affecting students in both of our buildings. It is not our intention to promote fear; instead, we just hope to work together to keep our students safe and to protect our students' mental health.

These are some key talking points when discussing this with your child:

- Remind your child not to give strangers private information, and parents, please be aware of who your students are interacting with online. Kids should never give out their name, address, school, phone number, email, pictures, or anything else that could identify who they are.
- Talk about who it's okay to chat with and what it's okay to talk about. Students shouldn't answer questions online that make them feel uncomfortable. They also shouldn't talk about adult topics with strangers.
- Make sure your child feels safe talking to a trusted adult. If something uncomfortable or inappropriate happens online, students need to know they won't get in trouble if they tell an adult they trust.
- Remind your student that possessing content that is derogatory or sexual in nature may have severe disciplinary and/or legal consequences.
- Talk to your student about the consequences of slandering someone online, including themselves. Anything they write, post, or share can be screenshotted and shared.
- Discuss the consequences of creating a fake account in another person's name. Students create accounts in other students' names and choose to send inappropriate/explicit content to cause harm and embarrassment. This also has severe disciplinary and/or legal consequences.

Above all, please remind your student that we seek to keep our students safe. If you have an immediate concern, please reach out to local police for help and guidance.

Your Partners in Education,  
NL Administration

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