

Sandman Consolidated School
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LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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February 7, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Recently a number of incidents involving student misuse of Instagram, Tik Tok, Houseparty and other social media applications have been brought to our attention here in school causing friction among our students. **Under the Federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act a user of any social media outlet must be at least 13 years old.** Any adult can contact these companies to obtain the procedure to remove an account of someone under the required age. In addition to being in violation of this rule, we are concerned that many of these students do not have privacy settings in effect on their online accounts. This would allow anyone on the Internet to gather information about your child.

Together we must be diligent in our efforts to keep our children safe. If you allow your child to utilize these social media outlets, below are some helpful suggestions:

What Parents Can Do

- Limit screen time on electronic devices. An average day for kids this age should include: school, homework time, at least one hour of physical activity, social contact and sleep -- which should total anywhere from 8 to 12 hours per day. Whatever is left over can be screen time.
- Set up all Internet accounts with your children. Make sure that you know their screen names and passwords and that they don't include any personal information in their online profiles.
- Regularly go over their "friend list" with them. Ask who each person is and how your children know him or her.
- If your child has a social media account such as Tik Tok or Instagram, regularly monitor with him/her.
- Discuss cyber bullying with your children and ask if they have ever experienced it or seen it happen to someone.
- Tell your children that you won't blame them if they are cyber bullied. Emphasize that you won't take away their computer privileges - this is the main reason kids don't tell adults when they are cyber bullied.

We appreciate your assistance in our effort to maintain safety for all of our students. This can all be very overwhelming, so please reach out to us if you need any assistance whatsoever.

Yours truly,



Van Cathcart
Sandman School Principal



Hannah Nelson
Sandman School Counselor