

Dear parents,

We live in an age of increasing use of technology and our children are growing up with a familiarity of social media. It is very difficult for parents to shield them from all dangers, so we must educate our children on the appropriate and safe usage of social media.

A few suggestions:

- ❖ Let your child know that you can and will view their instagram (or similar site) often.
- ❖ Make sure your child knows to tell you about any cyber-bullying or any contact from unknown sources being made.
- ❖ As you look at your child's social media activity, speak with your child about the many ways the written word and these posts can be interpreted.
- ❖ If your child has experienced cyber-bullying issues, review the postings and comments that occurred *before* the mean or offensive comments and begin a conversation with your child about these postings.
- ❖ Advise your child to not respond to any mean or hurtful postings. It may be tempting to respond, but it tends to perpetuate the issue, and often creates even bigger problems.

Social media sites can be a fun way to socialize, but like all manners of social development, our children need our guidance. As the Intermediate School Counselor, I strive to offer support to the families of our students. I hope some of these suggestions help you guide your child through this maze of social development.

Sincerely,

Kim Wunderlich
Counselor
Montgomery Intermediate School