LAKE ZURICH COMMUNITY UNIT
School District 95

Technology Safety

Family Workshop Series
Fall 2024

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Empower every learner
to achieve personal
excellence

Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand District 95 control/safety measures in place on student technology

- Participants will understand additional control/safety measures they can apply to student technology

- Participants will learn about different gaming features as it relates to student safety

- Participants will learn about different applications as is relates to student safety

Safety Controls

District 95 Safety Controls

- **Securly:** District 95 uses Securly to monitor all internet searches conducted on district devices; administrators (or designees) receive an alert when a search related to safety is attempted

- **Gaggle:** Gaggle monitors content that is sent (or attempted to be sent) via district email; Gaggle also monitors student activity in Google products (i.e., docs, slides, email); administrators receive an alert when there is either a) questionable content or b) a potential student safety concern
  - LZPD dispatch is included on all safety alerts
  - *NOTE: When there is a suspicion that a student may harm themselves after school hours, police generally will respond to the call/student's home to do a wellbeing check*

District 95 Safety Controls (cont.)

- **Websites:** Several websites are blocked by the district for broad student use/access; for example, YouTube is blocked at the elementary level after school hours

- **Social Media Applications:** Students cannot access social media applications (i.e., Tik Tok, Instagram) via their district devices

- **Additional Controls:** In individual cases, there are other features of district devices that can be blocked; for example, access to the camera can be blocked in cases where students have taken inappropriate pictures using their district iPad

Common Control Features

- Both Android(Family Link) and IOS(Parental Controls & Family Sharing) have built in control features for parents/guardians; here are some settings and features included in both options:
    - Set screen time limits and downtime schedule
    - Find your child's device location
    - Restrictions to Web access
    - Set permisssion or block certain apps
    - Allow contact with only certain people through built in app(IOS only)
    - Force approval for app purchase

- ***NEITHER OS HAS THE ABILITY TO VIEW SCREENS OR TEXT MESSAGES***

Common Control Features (cont.)

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- There are apps on both systems that can provide additional features, such as monitoring texts, more advanced controls

- These apps can be found on the device's respective App Store; some examples of apps include Qustodio Parental Control App, Bark - Parental Controls, and others (NOTE: none of these apps are officially endorsed or vetted by the district)

- There are also at home web filtering services; these could filter any device connected to your home network (for example, they could block certain internet searches conducted); check your internet provider for options have available
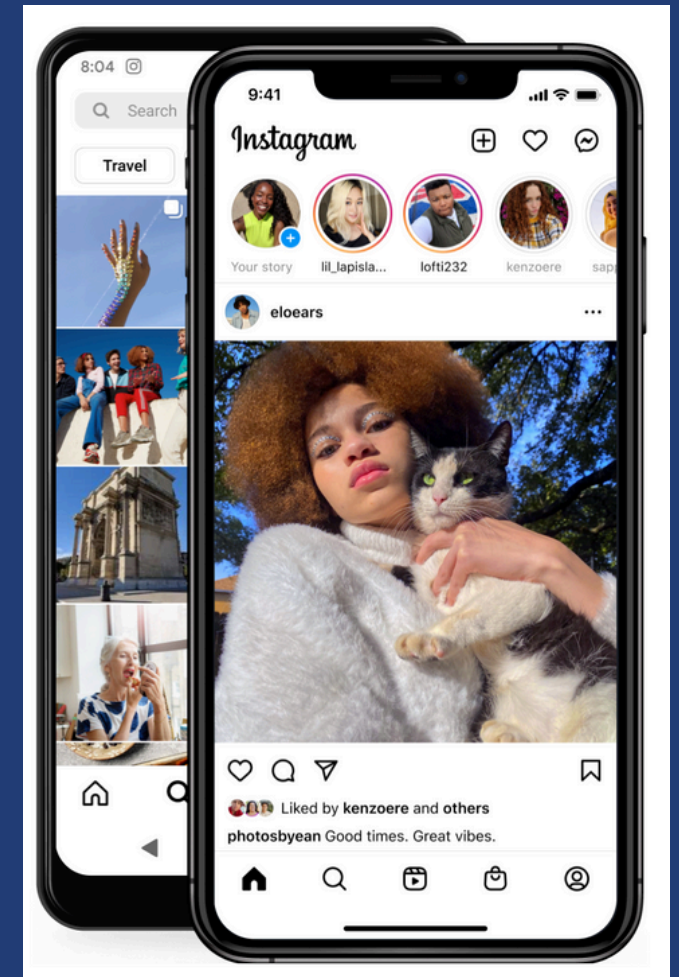
Gaming & Social
Media Applications

Gaming Features

- Many online gaming platforms allow for participants to "chat" with other players

- Examples of games that allow for chatting between players include (but are not limited to) Roblox, Fortnight, and AmongUs

- Gaming sites can be places where adults seek to develop connections/relationships with younger individuals; this can include attempts to communicate via other channels, share personal information, and other attempts

- **SAFETY TIP:** Monitor your student's online chatting activity; be aware that there may be players on games who say they are school-aged, but who may be much older

Instagram

- Individuals create profiles where they can share pictures or other information

- Instagram also has the capacity for members to "follow" individuals/see other individual profiles

- Instagram also has the capacity for members to chat/message each other through the application

- **SAFETY TIP:** Monitor your student's social media connections; be aware that there may be people seeking to connect with them that they do not know

Snapchat

- Individuals create profiles where they can share "snaps" (i.e., short videos) with other members

- Snapchat is known for the brief nature in which "snaps" are available to other viewers; however, anyone can take a screenshot of another member's content (making the content more permanent)

- **SAFETY TIP:** Students are sometimes wary to take a screenshot of content that they may want to report (i.e., inappropriate content) because the owner gets an alert; students can use their district device to take a screenshot in these cases

TikTok

- Individuals create profiles where they can share short videos with other members

- There have been "challenges" posted to TikTok in the past, school-aged individuals to engage in/record and post unsafe behaviors (i.e., hit a staff member, destroy a piece of school property); these challenges rapidly gain popularity with the large number of viewers on the platform

- **SAFETY TIP:** As is the case with any other social media platform, content created on TikTok becomes part of a student's "digital footprint" forever; monitor your student's accounts to make sure videos posted are safe/appropriate

Drug Sale Applications

Sometimes students use apps on their personal devices to coordinate drug sales; these apps are not monitored by district controls - and students have more freedom to discuss a wider range of topics (such as drugs); examples of apps that we understand students to use for this purpose include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Discord
- Telegram
- TikTok

SAFETY TIP: Monitor your student's app usage/ask them to allow you to "follow them" on their profile(s)

General Internet Safety Reminders

Digital Footprints

- Content students post on the internet remains on the internet **FOREVER**

- Young people have a false sense of security when they think their profile is private, or that individuals who have access to their content won't save it and share it further

- Internet profiles/information searchable on the internet can have long-term impacts for students, including impacting access to college admissions and job opportunities

FOREVER.

Potential Legal Ramifications

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- There are certain behaviors that can have potential legal ramifications for students, including:
  - *Possession of child pornography (i.e., pictures or videos of children under 18)*
  - *Distribution of child pornography*

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- Possession or distribution of pornographic material is also a violation of District 95 Board Policy - and can have serious potential disciplinary consequences

- **SAFETY TIP:** Monitor your student's personal device (including their camera role) and have conversations about the importance of not keeping/sharing content of this nature

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Questions?

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Thank you for your partnership!