



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Kevin Lyons

815.337.3071

Speaker to help parents guide children on technology use

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 will host a parent speaker event on Feb. 19 featuring a Boston University professor and author who will provide guidance on helping children move safely through the digital landscape.

Dr. Jill Walsh's presentation: *Strategies to Help Children Navigate Technology* will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19 in the Woodstock High School auditorium.

The event will also be livestreamed on the District 200 YouTube page

www.youtube.com/@WCUSD200.

Walsh's book "Adolescents and their Social Media Narratives: A Digital Coming of Age" was published in 2017 and she is working on a new book for parents. Her research interests include social media and mental health, and digital hate speech.

"We appreciate that parents have many responsibilities raising children in a complicated world that includes digital platforms. We hope this valuable information can offer parents some insights and more tools for their parenting tool bag," D 200 Superintendent Mike Moan said.

Walsh will explain what best practices around devices, gaming, and social media look like in 2025. Some of her focal points will include:

- Technology's impact (positive and negative) on child development
- The key tech rules to incorporate
- When and how to introduce devices/new platforms
- The important conversations to have with your children about technology

While Walsh will provide a research-based presentation, her goal is to provide practical and easily accessible guidelines and conversation starters that families can use at home.

Walsh earned her doctorate in sociology from Boston University, a masters in public policy from Brown University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Prior to graduate school, she taught 9th -12th grades.