

FOURTH - FIFTH GRADE



OK2SAY - Michigan's Student Safety Program

Today your child learned about **OK2SAY**, Michigan's Student Safety Program. During the presentation, students were informed how they can help make their school safer by reporting dangerous and concerning behaviors to a trusted adult. Students also learned tips and strategies for staying safe online and off. We encourage you to talk to your child about these important safety messages.

Follow-up Questions

1. What are some Internet Safety Rules?

- Keep your secrets safe! Don't share your private information with anyone online.
- Never meet online friends in person unless your parents say it's okay and go with you.
- Always tell a parent or trusted grown-up about any online message or talk that makes you feel scared, hurt, or uncomfortable.

2. What is private information?

It's any information that can tell someone exactly who you are. This includes your full name, where you live, your phone number, your pictures, your school's name, or even your passwords.

3. Why is it important to only talk to people we already know in real life?

Sometimes people aren't always who they say they are. You have no way of knowing who you are really chatting with online. There are people who can cause us harm, so it is very important that we are careful when we communicate with people online.

4. What should you do if someone online asks for a picture that feels wrong or weird?

Do NOT answer them! Don't send the picture. Tell a trusted grown-up right away, like a parent or teacher. They will help you.

5. What is rude and mean behavior?

Rude: This is when someone accidentally says or does something that hurts feelings or is a little embarrassing, but they didn't mean to be hurtful.

Example: Cutting in line by mistake, burping loudly without thinking, or talking when someone else is already talking. It might not feel good, but it's usually not on purpose.

Mean: This is when someone says or does something on purpose to hurt someone, maybe just once or twice. Sometimes they say it when they're angry. Later, they might even feel bad about it.

Example: Making fun of someone's clothes, how they look, or saying they're not smart. This can hurt, but it's still usually not bullying.

6. How is bullying different from mean and rude behavior

Sometimes people have disagreements or arguments, and that's normal. They may say something that is hurtful, but that does not mean the behavior is bullying. If a person is mean on purpose over and over and knows that the people he or she is hurting can't defend themselves, the mean behavior is considered bullying.

7. What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is a type of bullying that happens online.

Examples: Sending mean text messages or emails; spreading rumors through email; posting embarrassing pictures, videos, or websites; or even making fake profiles to hurt someone. It can also be how you treat others in an online game.

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8. Why do you think people can be so cruel online?

People can be more hurtful because they don't see the pain in the other person's eyes when they send a mean or cruel message. Some experts believe that cyberbullying is worse than physical bullying because bullying follows the target everywhere. Once something is posted online, it can never be recovered and removed. In addition, it can be hard to determine who is doing the cyberbullying because they may remain anonymous. Also, the person who is cyberbullying can quickly reach a broader audience.

9. What should you do if you are being bullied online?

- Don't answer back or be mean back. Two wrongs don't make a right!
- Block the bully so they can't bother you anymore.
- Save the evidence! Take a screenshot or save the messages so you can show a grown-up.
- Talk to a trusted adult right away.
- Report physical threats to the proper authorities.

10. What can you do if you witness bullying?

- Don't join in, laugh, or help the person being mean. That makes it worse.
- If you feel safe, you can tell the student who is bullying to stop.
- Tell a trusted adult about what you saw.
- Be a friend to the person being bullied! Maybe walk to class together, sit with them at lunch, or invite them to play.
- You can also contact **OK2SAY** to report what you saw safely and confidentially.

11. What is the difference between reporting and tattling?

- Reporting is when there's a big, important problem that needs a grown-up's help to fix it and keep someone safe.
- Tattling is when you're just trying to get someone in trouble, or you want something for yourself, or it's a small problem you could probably handle on your own.

12. When do I talk to a trusted adult?

- It's important to talk to a trusted adult whenever you need help or advice. Trust your gut feeling to know when to ask for help!
- When you have a problem and need ideas to solve it.
- If you're being bullied or treated badly in any way.
- When you're feeling really worried, sad, or stressed and need someone to talk to.
- If you ever feel unsafe or in danger.

13. What is **OK2SAY**?

OK2SAY is a Michigan student safety program. The purpose of **OK2SAY** is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior. **OK2SAY** allows anyone to confidentially report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at Michigan students, school employees, or schools. It is designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. Anyone can confidentially submit tips 24/7 using the **OK2SAY** app, online at ok2say.com, texting 652729 (**OK2SAY**), or by calling 855-565-3739 (8-555-**OK2SAY**). For more information, visit ok2say.com.