Internet in Education

Currently, the Internet is a popular source for information. Students use the Internet to research and prepare for all kinds of class assignments.
Much of what students access on the Internet is valuable information. There are also, however, a lot of inappropriate sites and dangers online.
Our schools take measures to ensure the safety of our students when using the Internet with filters, policies and procedures. It takes a coordinated effort between home and school to help our children be aware of the proper way to use this resource.

What kind of risks are there regarding the Internet?

Inappropriate Content

As great as the Internet is for finding information on any topic, there is still information that is not right for children. There are websites with inappropriate content and websites that appear to have valid information but are either not up to date or not a valid source of information.

Internet Predators

Chatting and sharing information on websites like 'My Space' is very popular with children today. There are people that pretend to be youngsters and chat with children online in an effort to get to know them and appeal to their vulnerable side. These people are called Internet Predators.



Websites on Internet Safety

Web Wise Kids
Click the Parent options for good downloads on Internet Safety Tips
• http://www.webwisekids.org/

I Keep Safe
Parent section has videos and downloadable Internet Safety Tips
• http://www.ikeepsafe.org/

NC Wiseowl Parent Resources
•http://www.ncwiseowl.org/kscope/parents.html

Get NetWise
Tips on Safety and Keeping your Personal Information Safe
• http://www.getnetwise.org/

iSafe Resources
Lessons from the iSafe curriculum are recommended to teachers to use to meet computer skills objectives on Internet Safety.
• http://www.isafe.org

NC Dept. of Justice – Attorney General
Under Parents and Guardians there is a section for viewing and downloading Internet Safety Video and Guides.
• http://ncdoj.gov/Top-Issues/Fighting-Crime/Internet-Safety.aspx

Sites for Kids
Kidz Privacy
• http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/kidzprivacy/kidz.htm
Get Net Smart Quiz
• http://techcorps.org/resources/Internetsafety/getnet.htm

Internet Safety

Information for Students, Parents, and Staff

Davidson County Schools
Department of Media Services
& Instructional Technology



2065 East Holly Grove Road
Lexington, NC 27292
336-242-5586

How do our schools keep children safe when using the Internet?

Permission from Parents

We want parents to be aware that we often use a variety of Internet resources when presenting lessons to the children. A completed parental permission form is required to be on file at the school before any student can use the Internet in any school building. Your child either has one on file now or the permission form will be sent home at the beginning of the year to be completed.

Filtered Internet System

Internet access in all of our schools is filtered to block inappropriate content. Filtering software resides on the district web server and is updated daily to keep current.

Monitoring of Internet Lessons

Teachers are required monitor the students closely when they are using the Internet and are instructed how to handle situations that arise. When an inappropriate site is found, it is given to the Technology Department to be added to the list of blocked sites.

This brochure can be downloaded in PDF format in the Document Manager section of the following site.

http://www.davidson.k12.nc.us/mediatech

Planning Internet Lessons

The Internet should be used to support the instructional program. Training is provided to teachers, media coordinators, and staff members on how to select, retrieve, analyze, and evaluate information from the Internet and to effectively use this information in the classroom. Teachers are required to carefully plan lessons that require the Internet. They must review the site before sharing it with the students. Many schools have the websites already bookmarked or prepared on a favorite sites page that the students use. This allows for easy access to sites and helps students avoid viewing an inappropriate site by entering an incorrect website address.

Teach Students to be Safe Online and Evaluate Websites

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Computer Skills addresses the issue of Internet safety and proper use of online resources. The curriculum has objectives for teaching students about Internet safety and how to evaluate websites to determine if the content is valid, appropriate and up to date. It also addresses copyright law and ownership rights.

More Sites to use with the Kids

Safe Kids Rules
http://www.safekids.com/quiz/index.html
Surf Swell Island (Virus Cave)
http://disney.go.com/surfswell/index2.html
Others
http://www.eduplace.com/kids/usingweb/
http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au/
http://www.computerlearning.org/RespCode.htm
http://pbskids.org/license/

Should I be afraid of my family using the Internet?

Not if you are aware of the risks and are cautious when using Internet Resources.



Follow Internet Safety Tips and Guidelines

Explain to your child that there are always risks involved and that certain precautions should be taken when using online resources. There are several websites on the back of this brochure that have Internet safety tips and guidelines, such as:

- NEVER give out personal information (name, address, phone, school name)
- NEVER meet an online "friend" without parent permission
- NEVER open email from unknown senders
- NEVER share photos with strangers over the Internet

Monitor your children when they are using the Internet

- Put the computer in a central location or, if it is in the child's bedroom, ask them to keep the door open when using the Internet.
- Teach them the precautions to take and discuss information they should never give out over the Internet.
- Always let them know they can come to you if they have questions, find an inappropriate site or feel they are chatting with the wrong person. If they know they can come talk to you, they will be more willing to communicate with you and avoid danger.