FAMILY DEVICE GUIDANCE

Digital safety is of the utmost importance. Intentional, frequent discussions with your learner of any age, are necessary and allow you to be proactive in protecting your learner and further educating them. Experts warn that learners are most vulnerable to online dangers while at home. Please note the following suggestions as they may help educate your learner about appropriate technology, including the device and home internet use.

Families must take responsibility for the use of technology and the internet. As a guardian, you are responsible for monitoring your learner's use of district-provided educational technology including district-issued email and cloud accounts and use of the internet at home or any other remote location outside of school.

FILTER ACCESS AT SCHOOL & HOME

The learner issued iPad device does have filtering capabilities that limits adult content on or off campus. This function evaluates each web page as it is loaded and attempts to identify and block content not suitable for learners. The search algorithm is complex and may vary from one operating system release to the next, but it is basically looking for adult language, i.e. swearing and sexually explicit language. The filter system may not block all inappropriate content. We continue to recommend parents/guardians to monitor learner use and screen time at home or away from school.

SET EXPECTATIONS

Regularly share your expectations with your learner about accessing only appropriate sites and content, as well as making good choices when online (even when adults aren't watching). Understand that your learner's use of many technologies (such as computers, tablets, iPads, video game systems, and cell phones) likely gives your learner the ability to connect to unfiltered public or other wireless networks (such as in a library, fast food restaurant or coffee shop, by picking up a neighbor's wireless signal, or connecting to the internet through a cell service). Therefore, it is important to maintain regular, open dialogue about internet use and access. Discuss your expectation for appropriate use and behavior.

MONITOR & LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Experts suggest having learners utilize the internet in a central place at home, such as the kitchen or family room, rather than away from adult supervision or behind a closed door. Know what your learner is doing with technology and how their time is being spent. Technology can be a great tool and resource, but also has the potential to be a big distractor. Help your learner learn to focus on completing tasks or assignments prior to engaging in other internet activities. Teaching today's learners how to manage multiple sources of information and potential distractions is a critical life skill, necessary before heading off to college or the workplace.

PUT THE DEVICE TO BED, BUT NOT IN THE BEDROOM

Families need to set boundaries to avoid use of the device after an appropriate time each evening. Experts suggest keeping all technology devices in a common family space overnight to discourage late night, unmonitored use and sleep disruption. It is crucial that learners of all ages do not sleep with their device in their room.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Common Sense Media provides useful information, including the Family Media Agreement. More research on the use of devices with young people is available here: https://www.anxiousgeneration.com/about

The statements in this document are intended to provide guidance for daily procedures and practices in order to maintain order, efficiency, and continuity amongst our schools.