



Cybercrime Awareness & Social Media Access

Dear Families,

Having school-aged children has never been easy. Today, it seems that there are so many more concerns when raising children. While technology has made our lives easier in many respects, it has opened a door to greater complications, risks and potentially life-changing events. To that end, the purpose of this letter is to remind families about the need to take an active role in discussing technology and social media with your student. This is an issue where schools and families can work together.

Various news reports throughout the country, state and in our county have indicated a greater number of incidents involving minors creating, transmitting or possessing illegal information using their personal cell phones. Students throughout Ohio have used cell phones to create, view and disseminate nude and/or sexually explicit pictures of themselves or others. Students often are unaware of the legal and personal consequences of such decisions. This is a violation of Ohio law and they could be convicted of a sex offense through their use of a cell phone. The Ohio Revised Code says that a person creating, possessing, viewing or sending photos or images of a minor (someone under 18 years of age) in a state of nudity is a felony. A conviction could result in the juvenile being jailed for a minimum of six months up to the age of 21, ordered to register as a sex offender and be ordered to provide a sample of DNA, which would be placed into the statewide DNA database.

Perrysburg Schools believes that communication and awareness by both parents/guardians and students are necessary. Through our schools, we work to educate students about their responsibility and the possible consequences of their actions in our increasingly electronic world. The following procedures will continue to be followed in our schools:

Any student transmitting or being in possession of any material considered to be harmful to a juvenile or representing nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement or sado-masochistic abuse (as cited in RC sect. 2907.01) may be subject to suspension with a recommendation for expulsion. By Ohio law, local law enforcement officials and/or Children Protective officials may be notified of any such activity if discovered by school officials.

Our students are living in a constantly changing world and it is our job as adults to keep them safe at all times. We believe it is important to continue to educate and remind students that their actions in the “cyber” world—via apps, mobile phone, social media, email, etc.—may well result in consequences in the “real” world. To that end, the school district will now be blocking

all social media access on school-owned student devices. We are also seeking your assistance in teaching your child or children of the legal responsibility that comes with the use of a cell phone, as well as other electronic tools for communicating with others. Please use this letter as a basis for an important conversation with your child or children. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me.

I would also like to highlight some new tools that we have available – a tip line and crisis text line, which are also listed on our website:

- **Safer Ohio School Tip Line** – 844-723-3764 – This is a free service that accepts calls and texts 24/7 and allows anyone to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to safety.
- **Crisis Text Line** – text “4hope” to 741 741 – People of all ages may reach out by text 24/7 to communicate with someone trained to listen and respond in a method that is free, private, secure and confidential. Data usage while texting Crisis Text Line is free and the number will not appear on a phone bill with the mobile service carrier.

Best wishes for a great start to the school year!

Sincerely,
Thomas L. Hosler
Superintendent
Perrysburg Schools