

Internet Safety



Internet Safety

- Important to be a safe and responsible user of the internet
- Means controlling your privacy and your reputation
- Online interactions now might affect your future – in privacy, reputation, and even physical safety
- Your digital footprints can be copied, circulated, and can remain online for a long time and may come back and haunt you



Digital Footprints

- Everything you post online combines to make your digital footprint
- The Internet is forever – your digital footprint is forever and permanent
- Your digital footprints can become your digital reputation
- Try to create a positive digital footprint, that is safe for you



Tips for Safety

- If you wouldn't say something to someone's face, don't text it, IM it, or post it
- Use privacy settings so only friends can view
- Never open email from a stranger – it might contain a virus
- Don't send pictures to strangers or view pictures that strangers send to you
- Keep passwords private (except to parents)
- People may not be who they say they are online
- If meeting someone from online, it should be in a public place, with some other friends, with parent permission



Tips for Safety

- Don't give out personal identity information! especially in combination with someone who wants to talk about sex
- There is no such thing as "private" online – anything posted can be seen
- Golden Rule – if you wouldn't do it in real life, don't do it online
- Stay in safe "neighborhoods" – avoid creepy places online
- Confide in a trusted adult if something happens online that makes you uncomfortable or hurt



Internet Responsibility

- As an internet user, you have certain responsibilities:
 - Know what is appropriate to post – suggestive material or negative content could reflect poor judgment
 - Be a good digital citizen – online cheating is cheating, such as plagiarism
 - Seek out trustworthy sites and information – this may help in school research and help in avoiding online scams, spyware, and viruses



Managing Passwords

- Your passwords and your toothbrushes should be treated the same – choose an effective one, don't share it, and replace it every 6 months
- Passwords are used to
 - Control who can get information
 - Control who can change information
 - Prove you are who you say you are
- Online identity theft is when someone uses your personal information for themselves



Tips for Managing Passwords

- Don't keep written copies near your computer
- Never share them with other people!
- Don't use personal information in passwords – names, pets, phone numbers, dates
- Don't use the same password for all accounts
- Create a password that will be easy for you to remember but hard for others to steal
- Guard your passwords when you use them
- NEVER use someone else's password to post under someone else's page or info



Social Networking

- Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram
- These are online sites where kids can hang out together online
- They can post all kinds of things on their profile, can share their thoughts on their wall, and can even play games or give a virtual hug
- These sites are great places to stay connected with friends, as long as they are used safely and with responsibility



Tips on Social Networking

- These sites have privacy controls, but there are no guarantees – anything can be cut, pasted, and sent
- Inappropriate material can damage a kid's reputation
- Kids can “tag” their friends, which might violate that friends privacy
- Potential employers and colleges can surf these sites
- Can be time suckers – manage your time
- Video on Social Networking

<http://www.nsteens.org/Videos/SocialNetworking>



YouTube

- Everything is on YouTube and nothing is rated!
- Great site to show creativity and showcase talents
- Be cautious of:
 - Posting something that would get someone in trouble or be hurtful
 - Protecting your identity in videos
 - Remembering anyone could be watching
 - Keeping the site safe and comfortable



Discussion

- What are the best features of sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube?
- What are some of the problems that teens can encounter on these sites?
- What are some solutions to these problems?



References

- www.commonsense.org
- Federal Trade Commission
- CyberSmart! Education



Cyberbullying



Bellringer

- Who, in your support system, could you go to if you felt threatened or became the victim of violence, either online or in person?



Cyberbullying

- What is it?
 - Intentional and repeated use of computer and cell phone networks by kids and teens to cause harm or distress to other kids and teens
 - Internet is a great outlet for self-expression
 - Self-expression intentionally directed at the expense of another may really be cyberbullying
 - Video on Cyberbullying -
<http://www.nsteens.org/Videos/Cyberbullying>



MTV has started a campaign
called
A Thin Line
to empower teens to
“identify, respond to, and
stop the spread of digital
abuse.”

www.athinline.org





The hurt of digital harassment can last forever.

Cyberbullying

- Examples of:
 - Posting mean or cruel comments
 - Sending photos or texts meant to embarrass or humiliate
 - Creating fake identities or fake fb or Twitter pages online to intentionally hurt
 - Taking pictures in an area where privacy is expected and posting or distributing
 - Uploading unauthorized videos for viewing, rating, tagging, discussion



Cyberbullying

- Effects of:
 - Can cause emotional damage
 - Information posted is hard to remove
 - Bullying can happen at home, not just at school
 - Can cause anger, fear, depression
 - Damage might last a lifetime
- Just as serious as face-to-face bullying
- Because teens are typically connected 24/7 means being more susceptible to victimization



Cyberbullying

- What to do if?
 - If you or someone that you know is being cyberbullied,
 - Save the harassing or threatening messages,
 - Print them out,
 - And get help from a trusted adult.
- Who, in your support system of trusted adults, can help?



Cyberbullying

- Common Sense
 - Use self-control and respect online, just as with face-to-face relationships
 - Be a positive role model – support targeted teens and let others know this behavior is unacceptable
 - Think before you post – you may post something that can be abused or you may post something that comes across as abusive
 - Ask for help from a trusted adult if needed



Cyberbullying Rules

- NEISD Secondary Student/Parent Handbook
 - General Student Rules: ...prohibited from: using/misusing an electronic or wireless communication device...which includes text messaging inappropriate comments, ..., sexting, cyberbullying, having or sharing inappropriate pictures,...
 - Disciplinary consequences based on severity and/or persistence of misbehavior
- In general, misuse of technology at school is against NEISD Student Code of Conduct



Student Appropriate Use of Technology Resources Policy Agreement

- If you and your parent/guardian have signed the NEISD Appropriate Use of Technology Resources Form, you have agreed to be a responsible digital citizen by:
 - Acting in a considerate and responsible manner complying with District standards
 - If accidentally access inappropriate material, backing out and notifying the adult present
 - Not using technology during testing unless allowed
 - Not plagiarizing
 - Not cyberbullying
 - Additional activities as listed on agreement that allow technology to be used in a responsible manner



Cyberbullying Laws

- Texas Law – Effective Sept. 1, 2009
 - H.B. 2003 amended Texas Penal Code to include online harassment
 - 3rd degree felony = using another person's name or likeness on a social networking site for the purpose of harassing someone else
 - Class A misdemeanor = sending electronic communication with the intent of harming or defrauding another person



Cyberbullying Laws

Charges can fall under

- Harassment
- Online Impersonation

If someone is impersonating you, or someone you know, tell a trusted adult or law enforcement.



References

- www.athinline.org – MTV: A Thin Line
- CyberSmart!
- Common Sense Media
- Cyberbullying Research Center
- www.netsmartz.org
- www.policymatters.net Fall 2009
- NEISD Secondary Student/Parent Handbook 2010-11



Scenario

Megan has just moved to a new school. She is friendly and outgoing and makes friends easily. However, there is a group of girls that are very jealous of her. They create a “We Hate Megan” website and invite other students to post negative pictures and comments about Megan. The pictures are not even pictures of her. Megan is very hurt, which turns into depression, when she sees the website.

1. How do you think Megan felt when she saw the photos and read the comments on the site?
2. How do you think this situation affected her wanting to go to school and her ability to learn when she was at school?
3. What advice would you give Megan?
4. What would you try to do to help this situation?
5. Have you faced a similar situation that you would like to share?