

Whitehall School District

www.whitehallsd.k12.wi.us



19121 Hobson Street, Whitehall, WI 54773

Mike Beighley
Superintendent/
HS Principal
715-538-4374

Damon Lisowski
Elementary Principal/
Summer School Director
715-538-4364

Jamie Youngbauer
Asst. HS Principal/
Athletic Director
715-538-4364

Beth Lisowski
Jr. High Principal/
Curriculum & Assessment
715-538-4364

Vickie O'Dell
Director of Pupil Services/
Special Education
715-538-4364

Date: April 28, 2017

Re: Internet Safety Presentation

As part of our work in the area of Internet safety, we would like to invite and strongly encourage all parents to attend a presentation scheduled for Monday, May 1 at 6:00 in the Auditorium.

Many of our children are using electronic devices such as phones, tablets, or computers/Chromebooks and are online every day. They make countless connections to people we don't even know. We would like to clarify and expand on some of these ideas as well as some specifics to behaviors centered around "sexting" which are becoming more and more a part of our kids' lives.

We will be presenting to all Junior and Senior High School students, but will be meeting with grades 7-8 at 1:00 and grades 9-12 at 2:15. These will be slightly different, age-appropriate discussions. We will be covering what sexting is and what the possible consequences are. Many teens are not aware of the severity of social, school, and legal consequences of this activity. We will also discuss inappropriate online communications, how teens can keep themselves safe from online predators, and how to report any suspicious or inappropriate online behaviors.

Then the parent presentation starting at 6:00 will go much deeper into the world of online predators. We will first recap the information shared with students. Additionally, we will provide parents with insight into the world of online predators and how to keep children safe with electronics and the online world as online sexual predators are much closer of a threat than we often imagine. If time permits, we will conduct a live chat to show just how easily and quickly these predators will pick up on a teen.

We will also discuss some apps that teens are using that online predators also frequent as well as some other apps parents can use to help keep children safe and keep you informed of what your children may be doing online. We hope this information will provide you with talking points you can use with your child to keep them safe.

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend this event, but please be aware that this presentation will use language and terminology that some parents may feel is inappropriate for children. There may be apps we share with you that your children are not aware of that you don't want them to discover. Please take these issues into consideration if you choose to bring your children to the parent presentation. We hope to see everyone on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. as this presentation may simply be the single most important set of information when looking at the overall safety and well-being of our children in these times. The presentation will wrap up about 7:30.

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