

Internet Safety Information

What does the District do to ensure student safety on the internet?

The Moberly School District utilizes various levels of security and safeguards to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students, kindergarten through 12th grade.

- The District provides a business class firewall that blocks all traffic on the internet from coming into the system uninvited.
- Data entrance protection tests for Trojans and various types of other intrusive software.
- A subscription based content filtering system is continually updated to block keywords and sites from being seen or downloaded.
- The email system is designed to maintain age appropriate functionality, allowing usage within the district's network only.
- The use of social network sites on the district network and on district purchased devices is prevented.
- A user name convention is used for students that ensures gender and whole names are not revealed.
- The system is geared toward utilizing the internet for educational programs and does not allow students to install a new app or download programs.
- Student access to school technology is used in planned classroom activities and always monitored.

What is good, general advice for parents when supervising their child's internet access?

There are many parental control and tools available that parents can use at home to protect their children. These will allow parents to block unwanted websites and monitor kids' activities online. Qustodio is the top rated software for 2017.

For older children, limiting the data plans on smartphones will limit the exposure to social media sites. If kids utilize wireless access instead of data plans, access will be limited by any filtering the wireless systems may provide.

Should I allow my child to access the internet?

The internet provides many benefits for your child. Access to the internet can improve your child's reading skills by providing interesting materials to read. As children use the internet to connect with places around the world, they can learn about other cultures and traditions. Your children can use the internet to access libraries around the corner or around the world and to specific collections of information and reference materials. There are also dangers with the internet.

What are some safety guidelines to discuss with your child or teen?

- Never give out personal information like phone numbers, birth dates, passwords, and addresses. This includes posting this information on websites and social media sites like Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, kik, Reddit, Vine, tumblr, WhatsApp, Yik Yak, or Facebook. Consider using a pseudonym, and avoid listing your child's name and email address in any public directories and profiles.
- If your child has a website, social media profile, or other web space for public viewing, periodically check the content for appropriateness and give helpful direction. Have your child explain how to view this information.
- Many sources encourage no posting or sharing of pictures of your child or teen online. If posting pictures, make sure it is okay with all people in the picture. Also, ask yourself how a person visiting the website may interpret the picture, considering what type of

clothes or poses are portrayed. They may interpret the picture differently than you intended.

- Just like stranger safety rules, tell your child to inform you if someone he/she met online asks for a face-to-face meeting. Know who your children are talking to and ask them to go through their buddy list explaining who each person is. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.
- Limit device use to a common area such as a family room, kitchen or den so you can monitor your child's use of the internet. Have children and teens report obscene or violent materials. "Teenagers are particularly at risk because they are more likely to participate in online discussions regarding companionship..."
- Monitor the amount of time your child or teen spends online. If it is for entertainment purposes, it is important to be clear on how much time is permitted. While children and teens need a certain amount of privacy, they also need parental involvement.
- Be honest about the dangers of the internet. Some people they meet online are not who they claim to be. Children or teens might encounter e-mail or chat room / bulletin board messages that are harassing, demeaning or belligerent. Acquaintances or friends may post words that they would not ordinarily say to someone face to face.
- Monitor phone and internet bills for unknown charges to make sure that children or teens are not accessing inappropriate sites or purchasing merchandise.
- Instruct children or teens to NOT click on links that are contained in e-mails or instant messages from persons they do not know. These could lead to inappropriate websites or downloads.

My Rules for Online Safety (Post these rules by the Computer)

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
- I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

Helpful Internet Sites

<https://www.common sense media.org>

<http://www.safekids.com/>