



Montgomery County Public Schools
Cybercivility Task Force
September 29, 2014

Technology/Cybersafety Subcommittee

Leticia Barr

Susan Burkinshaw

Stephen Dolney

David Edimo

Karl Heyliger

Prema Nair

Kenneth Sanger

Nicole Shepard

Josh Siegel

Justin Silbert

What is *CYBERCIVILITY*?

- Participating in online interaction and sharing information in a safe and respectful manner without fear or threat
- Cybercivility is where people can freely participate with technology without feelings of harassment, lies or unwanted abuse
- To engage positively in the use of digital media in a manner that is responsible, respectful, non-threatening and constructive

What is *CYBERCIVILITY*? (cont'd)

- Effectively communicating in the digital world in a manner that makes individuals feel safe, respected and free from the threat of estrangement
- A culture of respectful, inclusive and responsible online behavior that promotes a healthy exchange of ideas and fosters a positive impact

Tips for Cybersafety: Password Protection

- Do not share your password
- Change your password frequently
- Use a combination of letters, numbers and special characters
- Use a unique password for each account

Tips for Cybersafety: Safe Internet Surfing

- **Don't give out your personal information** – Don't put personal details such as your home address, telephone numbers or parent's work address online as cybercriminals can use this information to create a fake profile with your details
- **What goes online, stays online** – Use privacy settings to make sure only your friends and family can see photos you post. Avoid posting holiday plans as criminals have been known to track your movements
- **Check your security and privacy settings** – Make sure your social network privacy settings are secured so only your friends can see your personal information and use your privacy settings to restrict who can see your posts, videos and photos

Tips for Cybersafety: Safe Internet Surfing (cont'd)

- **Password safety** – Sharing your password with your parents is a sensible idea, but avoid sharing your password with your friends, even if they promise they won't tell anyone! Also, when setting your password, make sure it isn't something people may guess such as your pet's name. Use a mixture of letters, numbers and upper and lower case characters
- **Always protect your mobile device** – Make sure your mobile phone is pin-protected so all your personal information stored on it is safe. Download a security app which allows you to remotely wipe any personal data, should your mobile be lost or stolen
- **Don't talk to strangers online or offline** – Don't meet up with strangers and let your parents know if a stranger has tried to get in contact with you online. Often people you speak to online may not be who they say they are so only share your personal details on social media sites with friends, family and people you already know in the 'real' world

Tips for Cybersafety: Safe Internet Surfing (cont'd)

- **Listen to the adults who know** – Adults will always be worried about you. Help set their mind at rest and avoid chatting online with strangers or using the internet so long you neglect your real world activities and real world friends
- **Be wary of unsecured or unknown websites** – When shopping online, use reputable and known retailers. Make sure any transactions you make only take place across secure web pages which you can identify from the padlock sign in your browser address bar and where the address says https

Tips for Cybersafety: Safe Internet Surfing (cont'd)

- **Be careful what links you click on** – Avoid clicking links in an email, Instant Message or on your social network unless you are sure the message is from someone you know. Cybercriminals have been known to hack into your friends' email accounts and social networks to send emails or post messages claiming they are in trouble and asking you to transfer them money. Don't believe it if it sounds suspicious or offers something unrealistic
- **Make sure your security software is up to date** – Security software is now available on all types of devices; mobile phones, tablets and PCs. Make sure you have the latest security software on your devices to stay protected at all times.

Maryland Laws Related to Cyberbullying

- *Misuse of Electronic Mail* CR 3-805 (aka Grace's Law)
- *Misuse of Telephone Facility* CR 3-804
- *Harassment* CR 3-803
- *Disturbing the Peace and Disorderly Conduct* CR 10-201
- *Disorderly Conduct or obstruction of activities, administration, or classes prohibited* (aka "Disturbing School Activities")
Education 26-101
- *Identity Fraud* CR 8-301
- *Stalking* CR 3-802

Incident Reporting

- Contact School Administration and Police
- MCPS Bullying Harassment and Intimidation Form (**MCPS Form 230-36**)
- Use new resources recommended and established as a result of the Superintendent's Cybercivility Task Force

Cybersafety Resources

- Stopbullying.gov
- Netsmartz.org
- iKeepsafe.org
- Cyber-safety.com
- Nationalcac.org
- Commonsensemedia.org
- Cyberbullyhotline.com/branded-school-tip