

Middle School Internet Safety Pledge 2010-2011

The Internet can be a fun and exciting place for your children and it is easy for them to get somewhat addicted. The Internet can also be frustrating and dangerous for your children.

- Sexual predators are skilled at using the Internet to entice children into online relationships, usually by setting up fake identities. Sadly, you must strongly stress that your children cannot trust anyone on the Web who they do not personally know through family or school.
- Although some children deliberately seek out “off-limits” Web content, many times they stumble upon them while trying to find legitimate information. If your child comes to you and tells you about a disturbing image or site, understand that people are misdirected in their searches all the time, and that it was unintentional.
- Children must know that they absolutely must tell you if a “person” from the Internet wants to call on the phone or meet them in person. Such meetings or calls never can be allowed to take place without a parent’s presence (including listening in on the other line).

Show them how much you love them by becoming an active parent online in regards to keeping your children and your children’s friends safe. Sign the Internet Safety Pledge Today! Families who take the pledge will be published in the RamGram this winter. After publication, place a copy of families taking the pledge in your Student Directory to quickly identify “Safe Internet Homes.” We also encourage parents to communicate with each other concerning any Internet activities in your homes. The Internet Safety Pledge States:

- *I will monitor my child online. On-line activities will be supervised by a responsible adult.*
- *I will communicate openly with my child. I will answer my child's questions on issues we find on the Internet together. I will make my child stronger through education.*
- *I will learn the lingo. If you don't know what a blog, IM, and a chat room are, among other terms, find someone who can get you up to speed. Be an effective ally for your child by understanding the language used online.*
- *I will teach my child how to use search engines effectively. This will help to enhance my child's education as well as keep them safe.*
- *I will set limits with my child on how long they can use the Internet and where they can go. We will decide together on how many days a week and hours per day of Internet use.*
- *I will use parental software. If I cannot be with my child every time they are on the Internet, I will use the software to protect them from viewing inappropriate material.*
- *I will pay attention to what my own Internet behaviors are teaching my children. I will not model inappropriate or dangerous online behavior.*

Parent(s) Name (Please Print): _____

Parent(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Child's Name(s) and Grade(s): _____