



Robinson PTSA Middle School Parent's Internet Safety Pledge 2009-2010

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 Pledge Today and join Robinson PTSA Middle School Parents for Internet Safety. 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.

- **I will monitor my child online.** On-line activities will be under the supervision of a responsible adult.
- **I will communicate openly with my child.** I will not avoid answering my child's questions on issues we find on the Internet together. I will make my child stronger by giving him/her knowledge.
- **I will learn the lingo.** If you don't know what a blog, an IM, and a chat room are, among other Internet terms, find someone who can bring you up to speed. The only way you can be an effective ally for your child on the Web is to understand the language.
- **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.** 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 parental 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): _____

Return the Internet Safety Pledge Form at the PTSA Membership Table on Locker Distribution Days (9/2/09 and 9/3/09, Back-to-School Night 9/16/09, or Mail to: Robinson Secondary PTSA, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22032.