INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES

PARENT TIPS:

Learn about computers. Spend time with your children online and get to know about their favorite destinations.

Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter something that makes them uncomfortable. If you or your children receive a message that you find objectionable, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for assistance.

Remember everything you read online may not be true. An offer that is "too good to be true", probably is. Be careful about sending personal information over the Internet.

Be sure to make this a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room so that is it easier to oversee.

Pay attention to the games your older children may download. Some are violent or of a sexual nature.

Most major Internet Service Providers have a **parental control** feature written into their software which parents should activate to ensure children view just what you want them to view.

Visit age-appropriate sites. Find sites that promote learning, creativity, and that deepen your kid's interests.

Minimize chatting with strangers. Tell your kids that people aren't always who they say they are on the Internet.

Help kids think critically about what they find online. Young people need to know not everything they see is true.

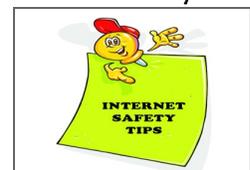**If they wouldn't do it in real life, they shouldn't do it online**. Remind them: Don't say mean things!

Have some rules about time and place. Set limits on the amount of time your kids spend online.

Agree on downloads. What music is okay? Which video sites?

Talk about privacy. Remind your kids that when they post something online, they lose control of it. It can be cut and pasted and sent around the Web.

Be involved and view your own habits carefully.

Enjoy the good stuff together!

Facts:

93% of 12—17 year olds go online (*Pew, 2010*)

22% of all teen girls—11% of teen girls ages 13—16 years old—say they have electronically sent or posted online, nude or semi-nude images of themselves (*National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and CosmoGirl.com, 2008*)

As of February 2010, 73% of wired teens now use social networking websites, up from 55% in 2006 (*Pew, 2010*)

43% of teens are exposed to cyber bullying in one form or another, yet only 1 in 10 have told their parents (*U.S. National Crime Prevention Council, 2008*).

In May 2009, children aged 2—11 made up nearly 10% of the active online universe (*Nielsen, 2010*).

18% of 8-to 10-year-olds spend time on some kind of social networking site daily (*Kaiser, 2010*).

71% of parents report having experienced one or more Internet-related issues with their children within the past year *(Harris Interactive poll, 2007)*.

3 out of 4 parents think it's just as important to know how to use digital media as it is to learn traditional skills like reading and writing (*Harris Interactive Poll, 2007*)

Internet Safety

STUDENT TIPS:

Only use the Internet when your parents tell you it's OK, and only for as long as you're supposed to.

Always have good manners and be polite when you use the Internet and e-mail or chat.

Never meet with an Internet friend unless your parents go with you.

Don't give out personal information like your address, telephone number or school name to anyone unless your parents say it's OK.

Don't send pictures of yourself or your family to anyone unless your parents say it's OK.

Always tell your parents about the people you meet or talk to on the Internet.

Don't break copyright rules by taking words, pictures or sound from someone else's Web site without their permission.

If you ever get an e-mail message that is strange, mean or upsetting to you, don't answer back to it! Tell your parents or teachers right away!

Ask your parents to spend time with you so that you can show them the sites you like to visit.

Sometimes, when you are on the Internet, you may accidentally meet bad people or see things that are bad, but it's NOT YOUR FAULT!!! If something you read or look at is upsetting, just stop looking at it, and tell your parents or teachers right away.

BE SMART

My Rules for Online Safety

1. I will tell an adult I trust if anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

2. I will ask my parents or guardian before sharing my personal information.

BE SAFE

3. I won't meet in person with anyone I have first "met" online.