

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social networking sites, such as MySpace, Facebook and Twitter, have attracted millions of users. There are hundreds of social networking sites connecting people who share similar interests, activities, friends, and more. Teens and children are becoming more and more drawn to these sites, which creates growing concerns, particularly about safety issues. While some sites try to keep young users from registering by placing age limits, these are easy to get around.

Most social networking sites have no verification process. Nearly all sites allow users to create a profile in someone else's name and image. There are some sites that can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet. Don't believe everything that is posted online! Many sites allow users to post songs and videos from other sites. Most video hosting sites have no requirements for their content beyond filtering offensive materials. While there might be filters, what that site considers inappropriate and what you consider inappropriate may be two different things.



Tips To Keep Your Family Safe

Never give out identifying information.

Never leave information such as your address, credit card numbers, social security number, bank account information, phone number, or place of employment saved on your computer. If a hacker gains access to your computer, you could become a victim of identify theft.

Be careful about what you post.

Posting pictures of your children and family may seem harmless, but it could lead to an outsider figuring out who you are and where you live. Also, sexual predators may use the photos of your children for their own purposes.

Never respond to messages that are suggestive or threatening.

Block the person sending the messages, or report them to the site moderator.

Remember— everything you read and see may not be true.

Anyone can post anything online. Make sure the information is true before believing it.

Guidelines For You & Your Children

- *Profile and forums are public spaces.*

Some sites let users set their profile as private, but many are public, allowing anyone to view the content there. Always be aware of what you're saying and posting online.

- *People are not always who they say they are.*

You never really know who is on the other side of that computer screen.

- *Don't lie about your age.*

Some sites require users be a certain age. Young kids pretending to be older are only putting themselves in danger's way. Older users pretending to be younger are risking getting their account deleted, and possibly facing legal action.

- *Protect your password.*

Be aware of where you're entering your password, and do NOT give it out. Change passwords frequently. Do NOT use the same password for all of your accounts. Do NOT make it something obvious.

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Title I Parent/Family Involvement Survey 2011

The 2011 Title I Parent/Family Involvement Survey is available online at <http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp>. Simply look on the Parent Highlights Section and click on the survey link. Instructions for accessing the Spanish and Haitian Creole versions of the survey are available on this link as well. Please note that this survey is available from May 9, 2011 - June 10, 2011, in a paper version at your child's school, or online at this web site. Thank you for participating!

Visit Your Title I Neighborhood Resource Centers

Neighborhood Resource Center North
7900 N.W. 27th Avenue, Space F9
(Northside Shopping Centre, 130 South Ct.)

Neighborhood Resource Center South
5555 S.W. 93rd Avenue, Portable #3
(FDLRS South Site)

OH THOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

Making The Most Of Middle School

There is a quantum leap from the childhood years of elementary school to the scary, uncertain changes that take place in middle school. Your child will grow emotionally, physically, and academically. Changes are scary for everyone, and your child probably will feel nervous about going into middle school even if she/he doesn't talk about it.

Plenty Of Anxiety

When you're eleven years old and anticipating your first step into middle school, there are lots of reasons to be anxious. There is a good chance that the new school will be bigger than the elementary school your child attended. Since the kids are coming from many elementary schools, your child will be making new friends. She/he may feel inadequate about her/his size and abilities. She/he will be the youngest in middle school instead of the oldest as a fifth grader in elementary school. Older students may bully the younger students, and there may even be gangs at school. Your child will have to get used to having five or six teachers instead of just one or two. Your child will be changing classes, keeping a locker, and trying to get to classes on time! Even the cafeteria is larger and finding a friend to eat with will be important to your child. Your child will be both excited and anxious about starting middle school, but that's okay.

A Big Step

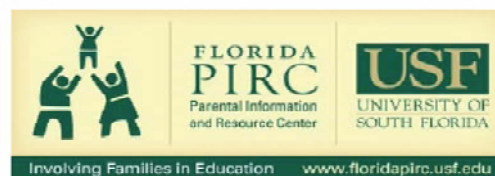
Starting middle school is a big step toward growing up. Your child will have a chance to meet new people, develop new skills, and try out new interests. Your child will have the opportunity to think about his/her goals for the future. A successful middle school experience will lead your child to future success in high school, college or other post secondary education or training, career choices, and a rewarding life! The middle school experience is full of opportunities and challenges and is a time of academic, social, emotional, and physical growth. Parents, remember that your children still need your support as they get older. Guide them with love and understanding, and keep a strong partnership with the school.

Be A Good Listener

The most important thing you can do is to listen. Let your child ask questions. Give your full attention! Help your child find her/his own solutions, and give lots of praise for efforts. It's okay if your child wants to keep certain thoughts and feelings to her/himself. Let your child take the lead. If you ask a lot of questions, this can result in her/him not wanting to talk.

Keep The Door Open

As the year progresses, keep the "door of communication" open for your child to talk. Keep your ears open for clues about concerns she/he may have but does not feel comfortable expressing. Recall the big step your child made when she/he started kindergarten, and look at her/him now!



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