



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”



Joan Landers

Superintendent of Schools

jlanders@winchendonk12.org

March 1, 2019

Dear Families:

A recent social media challenge targeting children and young adults called the “Momo Challenge,” has created concern throughout the country due to its disturbing nature. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of this challenge, provide you with the information about it, and remind you of the importance of monitoring your child’s internet usage and social media. The “Momo Challenge,” is a viral challenge that became popular last year in the UK.

Children receive anonymous threatening messages tied to pictures of “Momo” through popular platforms and games such as WhatApps, YouTube, RoBlox, and FortNite. The “Momo” picture can be described as a grinning face with dark hair and bulging eyes. “Momo” encourages participants to complete various tasks and threatens those who do not perform them. Despite the fact that filters can be activated- blocking inappropriate words or phrases- children are still susceptible to being targeted by online predators.

In collaboration with The Winchendon Police Department, social media risks will be addressed by our School Resource Officer Tracy Flagg, our school counselor, the Student Support Team, and our administrative team. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s principal and/or school counselor. You can learn more by visiting the links below.

Please be warned that some of the images and stories may be disturbing:

<https://www.boston25news.com/news/-momo-challenge-encourages-teens-to-self-harm-attempt-suicide/925845631>

<https://www.familyzone.com/blog/roblox-parents-review>

<https://www.websafety.com/2018/07/the-hidden-dangers-of-roblox-every-parent-should-know-about/>

<http://bit.ly/momoparentinfo>

To assist you in considering age appropriateness for children’s use of technology and time spend on media, here are a few links that may offer advice and assistance:

<http://www.safekids.com/internet-safety-by-age/>

<https://www.safesearchkids.com>

<https://www.parenting.com/gallery/social-media-monitoring-kids>

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Joan Landers