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SAFETY UPDATE LETTER

Dear Lansing School District 158 Community,

This letter is being provided to make you aware of a social media concern regarding online games that may be talked about and possibly played by some of our students. These games appear innocent at first but take on a much different tone once the student is engaged, raising concerns for their safety. One game that is currently capturing attention is the Momo Challenge, which students play by contacting a fictional character on social media sites such as YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp, and even YouTube Kids.

The Momo Challenge is a dangerous game that sends violent and graphic images and texts to participants and encourages them to participate in increasingly dangerous tasks, causing self-harm. Momo appears as a scary, doll-like female figure in these games. The Momo Challenge can feel real for children and may push them to harm themselves and others. Enclosed with this letter is an online safety guide about the Momo Challenge. Please take an opportunity to remind and teach your student to be safe and practice caution when online, report disturbing content or information to an adult immediately, and avoid opening links or emails that do not look familiar.

Our schools are aware of this social media concern and are working with students to keep them safe, as well as encouraging discussion with their families. Thank you for your support as we work together to keep all of our learners safe both at school and at home. Parents and guardians, please remain vigilant in monitoring your student's internet and social media activity at all times.

You are welcome to contact the office of your child's school with any questions.

Sincerely,



Nathan S. Schilling, C.A.S.
Superintendent of Schools
Lansing School District 158

Enclosed: Momo Challenge Online Safety Guide