November 6, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past several years, we have been providing greater access to personal computing devices in the form of Chromebooks and iPads for our students and staff. We have done this to provide enhanced educational experiences and opportunities, increase communications, and greater access to internet resources.

To safeguard our students, we utilize Connecticut Education Network (CEN) for Internet access. CEN provides an Internet filter called iboss. All devices connected to the Internet via our system are using this filter. We have also implemented GoGuardian software. This software is specific to district owned Chromebooks. GoGuardian adds additional levels of filtering and also tracks student use of the Internet. GoGuardian provides us with alerts when students are accessing information that could be age inappropriate, dangerous or harmful. This software will work at school and away from school, wherever our students are using their district provided Chromebooks. Please contact your child’s teacher or school principal if you believe the students have learned how to defeat the filtering software.

Students who use their own devices at school, including Smartphones, laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, etc., can bypass all district provided filtering if those devices have Internet access through a private contract. Please be sure to check with your internet provider on how to filter your child’s Internet access on your devices.

You should have recently received a flyer promoting a program for parents and guardians on managing screen time for your children. The program will be held at LES on November 13 from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. This is a link, [https://wwwusatoday.com/story/tech/2019/10/29/youtube-screen-time-overload-among-teens-and-tweens/2490553001/](https://wwwusatoday.com/story/tech/2019/10/29/youtube-screen-time-overload-among-teens-and-tweens/2490553001/), to a recent article in USA Today relating the results of a study on the increase of non-education related screen time for children 8-18 years. It has more than doubled since a similar study in 2015. For kids 8-12 years daily screen time approaches 5 hours and for teens it is nearly 7.5 hours. The program will provide you with strategies to assist you in managing your child’s screen time.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Angeli
Superintendent of Schools