September 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

Blue Ridge CUSD 18 uses [Bark for Schools](https://www.bark.us/schools) to help us monitor school-issued accounts for signs of digital dangers. When potential issues like cyberbullying, suicidal ideation, and threats of violence arise, Bark sends us a notification. Parents and guardians can benefit from receiving these alerts, as well.

**Get Alerts With the Free Parent Portal**

Students use their school-issued accounts both at school and at home, and families are often in a better position to respond to urgent alerts after hours, on weekends, and during breaks. These are times when administration may not be available in the event of an emergency. Today, you will receive an invitation to create your free account for the Bark for Schools Parent Portal. The email will generate from schools@bark.us. As soon as you opt in, you’ll start receiving after-hours alerts when Bark detects potentially time-sensitive issues.

**Monitor Texts, Social Media, and More**

Bark for Schools is free for both our school and for you. For even greater coverage, you can also sign up for Bark for Families, which monitors texts, chat, email, YouTube, and 30+ social media platforms for potential safety concerns. Blue Ridge CUSD #18 has secured a 20% discount for Bark for Families — you’ll only have to pay $11.20 per month to cover an unlimited number of accounts, devices, and children.

If you have any questions, please contact us Andrea Weedman, Technology Coordinator, at our technology helpdesk: help@blueridge18.org. Thank you for your support as we strive to help keep our students safe both online and in real life.

Respectfully,

Dr. Hillary Stanifer

Superintendent