



Watertown Middle School

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Dear Parents,

Students and teachers use the internet for a wide variety of educational purposes in and outside of school. The opportunities for learning are great, and we will continue to make good use of them in many aspects of the curriculum.

The internet also imposes challenges for us and our students. To keep children safe from online dangers, we take the following steps in compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA):

- . Active filtering of internet content streaming into the schools
- . Staff monitoring and supervision of all students using computers and the internet in school
- . Specific class lessons for students on how to stay safe online

For the most part these strategies have been successful in Watertown schools. In addition, to reinforce the messages we teach as they apply to activities outside of school, please encourage your children to:

- . Not reveal real names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, personal photographs or other personal data online, especially to strangers.
- . Not email, IM (Instant Message) or chat with anyone you do not know.
- . Tell a teacher, parent or other trusted adult if someone they met online wants to meet them in person, or whenever anything inappropriate or uncomfortable occurs online.

Children who use online services such as Yahoo!, MySpace.com, weblogs, chat rooms, etc should be cautioned that posting their personal information, including their photographs may expose them to risks, such as being approached by strangers with harmful intentions.

In addition, consider placing computers in the home in a public location rather than in a bedroom. Also, spend some time with your children when they use the computer and when they are online, and talk to them about what they do there.

These steps go a long way toward keeping children safe in our technology-rich world.

Sincerely,

J. Kimo Carter
Principal