

# Social Networking

Social networking is an online community where one connects with others of like interests via blogs, instant messaging, email, videos, photos and/or chat rooms.

If your child belongs to a social forum such as MySpace, Facebook, or Webkinz, check their privacy settings and any postings to make sure they do not contain personal contact information or inappropriate content. Check the pages that are linked, as these pages may contain inappropriate content or information that would identify your child.

- Online social networking should be age-appropriate and monitored by parents.
- On a social networking site, your child should restrict access to their profile using privacy settings, talking only to people known in real life.
- Your child should never accept unsolicited email, files, photographs, videos, or attachments from online strangers.
- Remind your child that passwords should never be shared.
- If something makes your child uncomfortable, scared, or worried, they should discuss the problem with you or another trusted adult.
- Listen and talk with your children about social networking safety.

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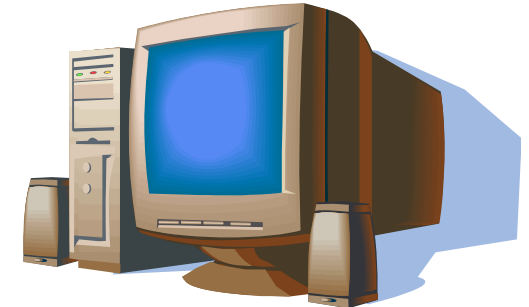
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**NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL  
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SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# Keeping Your NA Tiger Safe Online



Brought to you by the  
**North Allegheny Elementary  
Principals and Librarians**

## Keeping Your NA Tiger Safe Online

Our world today is engulfed in technology. Our children are surrounded by technology in every avenue of their lives. As such, it is important that we continue to discuss and educate our children to remain safe while they are using the Internet. It is no longer a case of filtering information to keep our children safe; we must also educate our children on how to avoid dangerous situations and how to react to unexpected and/or difficult episodes online.

**A great resource for parents is [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov).**

The information in this brochure will be shared with your elementary child throughout the school year in library class and in a variety of school activities. Please read and reinforce these tips at home when your child is on the computer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your elementary school librarian.



## Internet Safety



- Place the computer in a visible area of the home, not in bedrooms or other areas where children may work alone.
- Establish family guidelines for Internet usage.
- Monitor your child's Internet use including email and social networking.
- Seek training on parental controls, (i.e. filters); one such website is [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov).
- Talk to your child about the dangers they may face online.
- Know the online groups to which your child belongs.
- Remind your child that strangers are everywhere, especially online.
- Instruct your child that they should never give any personal information such as address, birth date, last name, or send pictures to anyone on the Internet without your permission.
- Watch for warning signs from your child, such as spending a great deal of time online (especially at night) or refusing to talk to you about his/her activities.

## Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is sending or posting harmful or mean text or images using the Internet, other electronic devices, or PDA's (personal digital assistants).

- Make it clear to your child that they should let you know if someone says or does something that makes them uncomfortable. Many children think they may be punished or lose computer privileges if they do so.
- Tell your child not to respond to messages that may make them feel uncomfortable, and make sure your child reports those messages to you when they occur.
- Inform your Internet service provider of any inappropriate use of the Internet found by you or your child.

