

Dear parents, guardians, and students,

This is just a reminder about internet and social media safety. This year we have had a few issues with the inappropriate use of Facebook and Twitter and also with the posting of inappropriate pictures online.

While it is your son/daughter's responsibility to follow guidelines for appropriate use of the Internet, the best way to assure that they are having positive online experiences is to stay in touch with what they are doing. One way to do this is to spend time with your children while they're online. Have them show you what they are doing and be sure to set rules and guidelines for their Internet use. We highly recommend following these basic guidelines from the "Teen Safety on the Internet Highway":

- **Be open with your teens and encourage them to come to you if they encounter a problem online**
- **Keep your identity private**
- **Never get together with someone you "meet" online**
- **Never respond to e-mail, chat comments, instant messages or other messages that are hostile, belligerent, inappropriate or in any way make you feel uncomfortable**
- **Be careful of uploading or posting pictures of themselves onto the internet or social media sites such as Facebook**

SafeTeens.com has posted valuable articles with tips and hotlinks for training students to be safe on the Internet. Any parent whose children have access to a computer or smart phone should take a look at this site. There are a lot of good articles on a variety of subjects.

Sincerely,
James Ward
Holliston School Resource Officer