

# ONLINE SAFETY STARTS HERE.

**As parents, we want to do everything possible to keep our kids safe — online as well as off-line. Keep these basic cybersecurity tips handy and teach your children why each is important.**

- **Connect safely.**

Avoid connecting any device to a public WIFI connection. This can give anyone access to your child's information. Instead, use your personalized and secure home WIFI network. Assist your child in setting up their school device to this WIFI network to get them started.

- **Think before you click.**

If a link or attachment is from an unfamiliar source, show your child how to search for the website using a web browser to check the source. Don't click through the email as it could put your data and information at risk.

- **Protect your privacy.**

When a device is not in use, block the camera from any personal views, disable the microphone and disconnect from the WiFi.

- **Password perfection.**

Make sure that your child is involved with creating their passwords to ensure it is something they will remember. Strong passwords include a mixture of numbers, letters and symbols, and do not use the same password on more than one site.

- **Stop the bullies.**

If a student in class is making your child uncomfortable, encourage them to not only tell you, but also a school administrator so that the problem can be resolved quickly.

- **Ask for help.**

Encourage your child to ask for help if they have trouble using their device for schoolwork.

- **Use parental controls.**

They help establish online boundaries for behavior and information access. Technology changes rapidly, so it is important to have regular conversations about why parental controls are important.

- **Set privacy settings.**

Sit down as a family to configure privacy and security settings for the accounts everyone uses most. This will help limit the amount of information that is shared online. Walk your child through the importance of enabling these settings and how it will keep them safe.

- **“Do you want to update?”**

Yes, you do. Because having the latest security software, web browser and operating system are some of the best defenses against online threats. If you are unsure of what the update will do, search online for more information from the software provider.