

Public School District Secaucus

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Recently, students in all grades have been exposed to an internet craze called the "Momo Challenge." We have been fortunate that many of our students have asked staff members for guidance about this "challenge." Listed below is information to help you understand this phenomenon and provide guidance in speaking with your child/children in order for them to understand the harm and dangers of this challenge.

The "Momo Challenge," a game found on Facebook and WhatsApp, features an avatar who asks its viewers to perform various tasks and then provide photos as proof. The "Momo" threatens those who do not perform the tasks. As many have researched this challenge, the extent of its validity cannot be measured and it could credibly be considered a hoax. Nevertheless, in a spirit of being precautionous and putting our students' safety first, we encourage you to follow the links below, learn about this as a family, and use this as an opportunity to discuss appropriate online usage with your children.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/allthemoms/2019/02/27/momo-challenge-internet-meme-could-teach-your-child-how-commit-suicide/3004431002/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/momo-challenge-resurfaces-police-issue-warning-to-parents/>

As always, we continue to educate and facilitate discussions about the risks that are associated with the use of Social Media. Our students know what to look for in such viral online activities, and although we are confident that they understand this is not something to entertain, we feel that this would be a great time to engage in positive, age-appropriate conversations at home about this topic.

This email has been shared with the Secaucus Police Department so that they are aware of the situation, and we will, as always, work alongside them to ensure the safety for all our students.

If you have any questions and or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor.

Educationally Yours,
Jennifer Montesano