



Freehold Township Schools

Neal Dickstein, Superintendent of Schools
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*"...preparing all students to be
responsible citizens and life
long learners."*

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Dear Parents:

In the age of social media, it is increasingly more important for parents to be attuned to the content their children are viewing online. I want to bring your attention to an Internet game entitled the "Momo Challenge". According to various sources, this challenge is presented to users via "Facebook" or "What's App." Contact begins with a chat that asks the receiver to perform small tasks and then escalates to more serious violent acts and request photographs for proof. Although this challenge is receiving a great deal of attention, there have been no reports of children interacting with it in the Freehold Township Schools. I have included two links below to articles about the "Momo Challenge."

This challenge is just one of the many dangers our children face when using computers, tablets, and phones. Our district uses Securly as an Internet filtering tool to prevent students from viewing inappropriate content online. Securly also filters content on students' Chromebooks regardless of whether they are in school or at home. Further, we subscribe to Gaggle to monitor students' email accounts and Google Drive accounts. Gaggle alerts district administration via email when inappropriate language or content is found in any student accounts.

I encourage you to regularly monitor your child's online activity. If you discover that your child is involved in the "Momo Challenge" or any other dangerous online activity, please know that your child's building administrators and guidance counselors are available to provide support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<https://www.nj.com/monmouth/2018/12/watch-your-kids-phones-for-violent-momo-challenge-cyberbully-schools-warn.html>

<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/newtown-pa/what-momo-challenge-5-things-know-dangerous-game>

Sincerely,

Neal Dickstein
Superintendent of Schools