



# HILLSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 93

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Dear Hillside Families:

We wanted to make you aware of what seems to be the latest viral challenge targeting children. It is called the Momo Challenge and it centers around a disturbing character suggesting dangerous tasks for kids to perform, including potentially hurting themselves or hiding for an extended period of time. From what we have learned, these and other suggestions can also be found spliced into some YouTube Kids videos, including Fortnite and Peppa the Pig. This challenge also occurs through an app called WhatsApp, which could function on both phones and tablets.

We recommend you talk to your child about these kinds of challenges, in a way that you feel is appropriate for their understanding. Given the connection and concern with messages within YouTube Kids videos, we also recommend you monitor what your child is watching and screen the videos, even if they appear to be safe, to ensure their viewing does not include harmful messages.

We want you to know we are aware of this trending issue and are working to ensure that any reference to this disturbing challenge is not being discussed or “played” in classrooms or at recess. We also appreciate your help in making sure our students are safe. Please know that if we have any concerns regarding the safety of our students, we will immediately notify parents and take steps to ensure that our students are safe.

Throughout our school/district, there are many security measures in place to keep students safe while using the District’s technology devices. Students are not permitted to access sites that have been deemed dangerous and students are monitored by school staff while using technology devices.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting our students and their safety.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin L. Suchinski  
Superintendent