

September 22, 2018

Dear Parents:

As some of you may know, as part of our redesign effort, at Eisenhower and the Middle School, we have partnered with Summit Learning to provide your child with the most rigorous learning experience possible. What that means to us is that students are prepared for the real world of the 21st century - where they have deep skills that are transferable to any job, they have self-direction and can learn new things as opportunities arise, and that they have the habits and mindsets we know will make them successful not just in school but in whatever they choose to do afterwards. This is why we partnered with Summit - because they share those hopes for our students and their curriculum is specifically designed with those goals in mind. The combination of 1:1 mentoring, project-based learning, and self-direction has allowed us to begin paving the path toward our school's vision. Thank you to those families who have already reached out to us with their excitement, their feedback and their concerns.

In the past week we were notified by a parent that there were two links to inappropriate content found within students' school work. The actual resource - in this case a news article - that the student was reading was aligned to curriculum and standards, however, the news articles that surrounded it (articles that change over time) were not appropriate. While we are doing everything we can to filter for appropriate websites at school, we can't always control what happens on the Internet. As your student's safety is our number one priority, we have acted quickly, and we want to keep you informed of the measures we are taking.

The school is going to go through a heightened vetting process where we will check every link that we are sharing with students. As you can imagine, this will take some time and so for the next few weeks, we have decided to limit student use of computers to projects and for taking assessments. The school will print out all other materials students may need. There will not be a disruption to student learning, and we will still be promoting the goals our school has for students - building skills, self-direction, habits and mindsets.

Additional action includes:

- doubling our Internet filtering system on school provided Chromebook when used outside the school's network.
- placing an add blocker on all Chromebooks and continuing to explore ways of improving the blocker.
- seeking assistance from other school districts and the Kansas Department of Education in providing the highest levels of Internet safety.
- over the weekend blocking student access, on school provided Chromebooks, to specific places on the Internet including Summit Learning, Facebook, and Twitter.
- continuing to educate staff and students about Internet safety protocols.

Your student's safety and security at our school is our top priority, as is access to current, rigorous and standards-aligned curriculum. We know we can make both possible and are working hard to get the curriculum back up and running so that you can have full access to everything your child is working on and how to best support them at home. The program we've chosen as part of our redesign allows us to customize the curriculum to our local needs. We will continue to communicate with you about all decisions being made and make sure that as a community we all feel confident in the resources our students are using in school. We are grateful for your patience, collaboration and support as we go through this process and ask that you bring all concerns to us immediately.

Sincerely,

Gordon Mohn
Superintendent

Brandon Simmelink
MMS Principal

Chris Allen
Eisenhower Elementary Principal