Internet Safety—Be Aware

Understanding some Internet dangers and planning ahead to address safety concerns and appropriate Internet use can result in a responsible and productive online experience.

Examples of Internet Dangers:

❑ Identity theft: the intentional and illegal use of another's personal information—such as Social Security or credit card number—for personal gain, typically to get money or credit

❑ Hacking: the use of a device (typically a computer) to gain unauthorized access to another person's computer or device

❑ Pharming: the act of sending Internet users to fake websites that appear to be legitimate to gather personal information, including passwords or account numbers

❑ Cyberbullying: the use of electronic communication to send messages or harass, intimidate, or threaten someone

Remember:

❑ While some safety measures might be in place to protect personal information shared or stored online, including passwords and credit card numbers, there are also many access points through which these pieces of information can be retrieved. They are not protected inside one particular place, behind lock and key.

❑ Keep personal information private. Never share your address, phone number, or even your current location, particularly on social networking sites. Be sure to use privacy settings on any website you visit.

❏ *Not everyone you "meet" online is who they say they are! Do not meet someone in person whom you met online; if you are asked to do this, notify a trusted adult immediately. If you are uncomfortable with or threatened by something said by others online, seek guidance from a trusted adult.*

❏ *Think before you share! Once a photo or comment is shared online, it is there forever. Even with privacy settings turned on, you can lose control over text and photos once you post them online. Be sure that what you share is appropriate and considerate of yourself and others. Don't violate others' privacy by sharing inappropriate photos of them.*