



Being Safe Online

During media class, students in grades 1-4 are taught a variety of practices to stay safe online. The primary four rules taught are

- 1. I will tell my trusted adult if anything makes me feel sad, scared or confused.** The NPS internet filters do a great job of making sure that pop-ups are blocked and outside influences do not have access to our students via online interactions. Our students are instructed to only access websites that have been pre-screened by their teachers, which adds an extra layer of protection. However, the amount of internet scams and scares continues to increase, as evidenced by the recent Momo challenge. We discussed this hoax in grades 2-4 during media because they were scared and confused. We discussed the fact there is a lot of misinformation online that can't be trusted and that we shouldn't go looking online for things that we know isn't good for us.
- 2. I will ask my trusted adult before sharing information like my address, name, and phone number.** Even adults fall for fraudulent online requests that may come to them via email asking for private information. The emails may look like they are from a trusted source, but institutions will not ask you to provide data through an email. Provide information only to secure websites by logging into your account, not through an email.
- 3. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone from the internet.** Students who have access to social media at too young an age are easy targets for online predators. Youth younger than thirteen years of age are not encouraged to have social media accounts because they do not have the maturity to recognize the dangers or understand the consequences of risky behavior.
- 4. I will always use good netiquette (internet etiquette) and not be rude or mean online.** Only fourth graders have access to email, but we teach this rule to all students in grades 1-4 to make sure they understand the rule before interacting online.

Norfolk Public Schools is committed to keeping your children safe online during and outside of school by providing them with the knowledge to make good choices. Please

use this [Technology Comments](#) link to submit questions or comments about this article.

Thank you.

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