Monthly

SAFETY TIPS

INTERNET SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

During the past few months, Bristol Public Schools has experienced several incidents of sharing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and other issues involving smartphones, computers, and tablets. The internet is a useful tool for students to research, communicate with teachers and friends, and play games; however, internet access also comes with inherent risks. Parents should be aware of what their child sees and hears on the internet, who they interact with online, and what content and information that they share about themselves. As parents, we should talk to our children, use tools to protect them, and monitor their activity.

Online tools let you control your child's access to adult material and help protect them from internet predators. Many internet service providers provide parent control options. You can also obtain software that helps block access to specific websites and restricts personal information from being sent online. Other programs can monitor and track online activity.

Taking an active role in your child's internet activities helps ensure that they benefit from them without being exposed to the potential dangers. Recommendations for parental internet supervision:
- Spend time online together to teach your child appropriate behavior.
- Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in a bedroom. Monitor any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
- Bookmark your child's favorite sites for easy access.
- Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.

Securly Safety Cloud for Students
Bristol Public Schools transitioned to the Securly Safety Cloud for students this year. The Securly Safety Cloud offers a robust web filter to help keep our students on-task and protected with signature features such as scanning for signs of cyberbullying, suicide, and violence, and detecting attempts to visit inappropriate sites or material. Securly offers unparalleled classroom and device management tools, allowing BPS to filter, manage, and recover devices within one platform. Securly's Artificial Intelligence can provide full visibility into students' online activity from which BPS can download or email reports, and receive notifications for flagged content. Additionally, BPS is exploring optional tools within the Securly platform to partner with parents; these options allow parents to view their child's recent searches, sites visited, and videos watched on their school-owned device. We are committed to keeping all students safe while they learn and explore with technology.

Internet Safety Concepts Webinar
On Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 PM, we will host an internet safety webinar. Topics include an overview of popular apps, programs, and online trends; cyberbullying, sexting, and other dangers; social networking and your child's digital footprint; and how to use technology to keep your family safe. Please click here to join the webinar.