

Last Updated: April 2020

Digital Citizenship

Note to reader:

Please be advised, our review of the information on digital citizenship outlined below in no way overrides or suggests inefficiencies with the technology and school policies for the Hanover School Division and Niverville Middle School (NMS).

These references are meant as additional resources to bring awareness and further educational resource options for parents.

Last Updated: April 2020

Without endorsement of one particular resource over another, one parent shares information discovered on a website committed to online safety and training.

The National Online Safety website <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/> is just one resource who make it their mission to make the internet a safer place for children. We understand parents have many resources available, and this is just one site to consider in your review list for additional information in helping make informed decisions for personal digital citizenship.

The Guides section of the website has easy to read one-page summaries for tips and wellness when using Social Media, Technology, Gaming, and Devices. From applications like Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, and Tik Tok to games like Minecraft, Call of Duty, FIFA 20, Grand Theft Auto, and Fortnite.

The Guides section includes overall online safety tips for parents and children, and understanding terminology like “sadfishing”, the impacts of mental health and social media, online challenges, and even cyberbullying.

Take a moment to see many of the site examples including Reddit, You Tube, Facebook, and a free guide to internet controls. We’ve included one guide example to illustrate the format to demonstrate if this layout suits your learning style:

Last Updated: April 2020

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends through voice call or text message. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story' stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choose!" When uploading to 'Our Story', your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future."

ADICTIVE SNAPSTREAKS

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

SEXTING

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshots is possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, users can even send a one-second photo or video. Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'leaves'. Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying.

It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

EXTRAS TO MAKE YOU STAY

Aside from taking photos and videos, Snapchat has other elements to keep users coming back for more. 'Snap Games' is a feature within the app where users can play minigames with others on their friends list. The games function is easily accessed by tapping on the rocket button during a conversation. Another feature on the app is 'Snap Originals', which allows users to watch content created by Snapchat, celebrities and other accounts, including a mixture of comedy shows, drama, news and more. These features are designed to encourage users to stay on the app, which may be quite addictive.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's selection of filters and lenses are seen as a great way to enhance your 'selfie game'. Although the filters are often created to promote entertainment and humour, using the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Children may strive for admiration and appreciation by sending these 'edited' photos to their friend list. Judging themselves against other users on the app might threaten their confidence or self-worth.

Top Tips for Parents

THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but it is helpful to protect themselves. It is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they are aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'sexting' can be very serious. Teach them that if they post anything emotionally embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences as the message, image or video can be shared further.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the map and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above

USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling 'Ghost Mode' on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the Snap Map. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages for images they are getting angry about. If they do, screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick Add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. To turn off 'Quick Add', go to the 'Settings' page

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can be found in the 'Who Can View My Story' section of the app. The options are 'My Friends', 'My Friends or Custom'. We suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.

Talk to your children about internet safety and be involved in their digital life

Talk to your child regularly about their favourite websites and apps, and what he or she enjoys doing online. Be supportive and always listen with an open mind. By keeping the lines of communication open, your child will be more likely to come to you if they encounter any problems online in the future.

More important than blocking objectionable material is teaching your children safe and responsible online behavior and keeping an eye on their internet use.

Last Updated: April 2020

Here are some basic guidelines to share with your child for safe online use:

- Follow family rules and those set out by the internet service provider.
- Never post or trade person pictures.
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location.
- Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents).
- Never agree to get together in person with anyone met online – and discuss with the parent if someone has asked you to meet them.
- Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
- Always tell a parent or other trusted adult about any communication or conversation that was scary or hurtful.

Basic guidelines for parental supervision:

- Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior.
- Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in individual bedrooms. Monitor (and limit) any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
- Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
- Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Find out what, if any, online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place where kids could use a computer without your supervision.
- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

For more information on talking to your child about internet safety:

<https://www.csa.gov.sg/gosafeonline/go-safe-for-me/for-parents/talking-to-your-child-about-internet-safety>