

# PILLARS IN ACTION

THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLASSICAL  
CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Internet Safety

This first Pillar in Action newsletter, we will give you information, tips and suggestions on keeping your children safe on the Internet. We are very excited to be partnering with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) to bring a student and parent presentation to BFCCPS.

On Monday, February 1, 2016 from 7:00-9:00, Dr. Elizabeth Englander, the executive director of MARC will conduct a parent presentation on internet safety, focusing on new internet users as well as social media and texting.

On Wednesday, February 3, students from Bridgewater State University, in conjunction with MARC will give a presentation to our middle school students on being safe on the Internet, and how to use Social Media and texting safely. They will focus some of their time on cyber bullying. They will define cyber bullying and help students determine which behaviors fall into this category, as well as how to help friends who may be being bullied, and what to do if they feel they are being bullied.

## INTERNET SAFETY

In order to assist you as the primary educator of your children, we have committed to providing you with three newsletters a year. Each Newsletter will follow a specific theme that ties to one or more of our mission pillars. The content of these newsletters is created by the faculty and staff of BFCCPS.

If you have any questions or would like further information on any of the information included in this newsletter, please contact Heather Zolnowski at [hzolnowski@bfccps.org](mailto:hzolnowski@bfccps.org)

## Resources for Parents:

**Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center**

**Safekids.com**

**Commonsensemedia.org**

**BFCCPS Bullying Prevention Policy**

<http://bfccps.org/character/bullying-prevention/>

## An Introduction to Internet Safety for K-4

With the access afforded to children via laptops, tablets, smartphones, and computers, children are accessing the Internet at younger ages. Your children are never too young to start learning about Internet safety. While young children should be monitored while using a device that accesses the Internet, or has texting or social media capabilities, it is important to teach children the idea of digital citizenship.

Safekids.com, a website devoted to establishing and maintaining positive digital citizenship, online safety, and civility, recommends the following kid-centric rules when accessing the internet.

### Kids Pledge

1. I will not give out personal information such as my birthdate, address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, without my parents' permission.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across something that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents.
4. I will talk with my parents about posting pictures of myself or others online and not post any pictures that my parents consider to be inappropriate.



*The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School exists "to assist parents in their role as primary educator." A child is first taught by his or her parents and continues to be profoundly influenced by them throughout life.*

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## An Introduction to Google Apps for Education



In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, our students are given access to a BFCCPS Student Google Apps for Education account. This account gives students access to a suite of applications that are educationally based. Students learn word processing, spreadsheets and presentation skills through accessing Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets and Google Presenter.

Students are also taught how to manage their work using Google Drive. This enables students to collaborate on work with one another, as well as access their work from any computer with Internet access. We encourage parents to monitor what their children are using their accounts for. Ask them for their passwords. If you or your child cannot

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## An Introduction to Internet safety K-4 (Continued from pg. 2)

5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away.

6. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online and using a mobile phone. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit.

7. I will not give out my passwords to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.

8. I will check with my parents before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt our computer or mobile device or jeopardize my family's privacy.

9. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.



## An Introduction to Google Apps for Education (Continued from pg. 2)

remember their password, please let the classroom teacher know, and we can reset it for you and share the password with you.

What can students NOT do through their BFCCPS Student Google Apps for Education account?

1. They cannot send or receive emails from anyone outside of the BFCCPS domain. This means that they cannot email or receive email from anyone who does not have a bfccps.org email address.
2. They cannot email one another. Even though they are on the same domain, they cannot send one another emails. They can only email faculty and staff with a bfccps.org email address.
3. They cannot access the Google Hangouts or G-Chat feature. While they cannot utilize these features, they can collaborate on documents via Google Docs. We have seen students set up "chat docs" and share them with one another. While we do monitor their accounts, we do also encourage parents to monitor their children's accounts as well. Anything that you feel is unacceptable language or content, please report to your child's teacher or an administrator.

# Internet Safety 5-8:

## An Introduction to Social Media

### Most Popular Social Media Websites and Apps that Kids Are Using

Students are accessing Social Media websites and apps at an alarming rate. Here is a breakdown of the most popular websites and apps, what they are used for, and what to watch out for. The information has been provided by Commonsensemedia.org.

App Name	Type of App	What Kids Use it For	What to Look Out For
KIK	Texting	Allows kids to text within the app, and over WiFi without utilizing their data plans or text allotments.	Includes many in app purchases and promoted chats (chats run by companies that charge a fee to be part of the group chat).
Instagram	Microblogging/Photo sharing	Lets users snap, edit, and share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or with a private network of followers	Public posting is the default. Privacy settings must be adjusted to prevent public viewing of their pages. Hashtags and location information can also effect whether or not they are public or private.
Twitter	Microblogging	Used to post brief 140 character messages. Kids use this to follow one another's activities but to also follow celebrities	Kids prefer to have their tweets public. Double check privacy settings to make sure they are where you want them to be. Updates appear immediately. While they can be removed, they are seen as soon as they are posted.
Burn Note	"Self destruct" text message	Text messages disappear after a set period of time.	Allows kids to communicate covertly.
Snapchat	"Self-destruct" text message	Allows users to put a time limit on text messages, pictures and videos before they disappear.	They don't really ever go away. The receiver can screen capture the picture or message before it "self-destructs" so kids need to be aware that this video, message or picture is out of their control once it is sent.