



Internet Safety

Dear Parents,

Your son/daughter is receiving instruction through Rockingham Schools for being safe on the internet. We'd like to provide you with this top ten list of things you can do in your home to promote safe internet activity. Most importantly, **talk to your child**. Your mindset is "protect yourself, protect your home, and protect your family".

1. Place your computers in an open place in the home like the kitchen or family room. Computing on the internet in private is not recommended. Beware of compulsive or excessive internet time by any family member.
2. Privacy is an important issue on the internet. Never give out your name, address, phone number or social security number to anyone or to any web page you have not personally navigated to.
3. Ask your child if he/she has a myspace account or visits other social sites on the web. Ask to see the page. Make sure children turn on the privacy settings to avoid strangers "checking them out".
4. Beware of anyone you or your children "meet" on the internet. Never personally meet an online contact unless it is in a public place and with adult supervision.
5. Don't respond to anything (email, chat, IM) that makes you feel uncomfortable or uncertain.
6. If you have a web page or post information on the web, never give your personal information. Use only first names. Always think: "someone is watching me".
7. NEVER respond to emails that ask you to "click here" to change your settings. This is called Phishing--it's a scam.
8. File Sharing of copyrighted music on the net is a crime whether you have paid for the software or not. Use only reputable music download services by major companies.
9. Forward all junk or phishing email to: spam@uce.gov then delete the email.
10. Install virus/spyware protection on your computer including a firewall. Filters and safe surfing software are available for a charge and for free. Check out the Rockingham Co. link below for information.

Visit these links for information about filters, parental controls, and other parent issues.

<http://guest.portaportal.com/netsafety>

<http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us/mms/netalerts.html>

Thanks and "safe netting" from us at Rockingham County Schools