

TIPS TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE BEHAVIOR

(Some information taken directly from The Detroit Free Press)

& [Other Helpful Links](#)

Television specials and personal observations have taught us all some of the dangers of the "online world." Students and Parents must be aware of the dangers that exist online. Sexual predators are present and you should be aware of what your children are participating in or who they are communicating with online.

At Dakota High School, another issue that surfaces are the types of conversations and destructive behavior that takes place on websites like "MySpace." Students often argue or spread rumors through this website which have an impact on our school day through verbal altercations, and sometimes violence.

We at Dakota have compiled a short list of tips that you, as a parent, can use to help monitor the behavior, types of conversations, and quality of people that your children are conversing with.

- Be a regular visitor to the computer your child uses (while they are on it!) and watch what types of websites they are visiting/viewing.
- If your children are communicating with others through instant messenger, chat rooms, or MySpace accounts, find out who they are talking to. Make sure that your children know who is on the other end of "the line."
- If your child has a MySpace account, take a vested interest in the content of their account. As administrators, we recommend that you discourage your children from having any such accounts.
- Remind your children not to upload pictures or videos of themselves or their friends in swimwear, pajamas or anything that exposes too much skin.
- Make sure your children know that it is unacceptable to take pictures of scantily clad people at the beach, lake party or poolside, much less upload them to the Web.
- It's wrong to take or post pictures or videos of people without their permission.
- Remind your children not to engage in crude behavior. This is the only way for them to be positive that their behavior will not embarrass them at a later time. Websites are a common place for poor decisions to resurface.
- Make sure that your children know that if a privacy setting is provided when uploading pictures or videos to an online album (usually there is), they should use it; that limits the viewers to their immediate friend list.
- Tell your children that you will be spot-checking their "photo albums" and those of their friends from time to time. If you find picture evidence of poor decision making or destructive behavior, you could take away their digital camera or camera phone and ban them from posting pictures. If their communication is contributing to poor decision making or destructive behavior, computer use as a whole could be discontinued.

We at Dakota have seen quite an increase in conflicts that are a result of online behaviors. We ask for your assistance in monitoring your child's online behavior. We ask this to ensure their safety and the safety of all of those who attend Dakota High School. Thank you.

Dakota Administration and Athletic Department