

SAFE SURFING SITES

For more information:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
info/cybersafety](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety)
(for students, teachers, and parents)

www.netsmartz.com

www.Netsmartz411.org

www.netsmartzkids.org
(for kids!)

www.isafe.com

www.safekids.com

www.safeteens.com

www.staysafeonline.info/

www.fbi.gov/library/pguide/pguide.htm

www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet

www.ikeepsafe.org

TAKE ACTION

If a child has received inappropriate or disturbing computer communication, *Act Now!*

Report inappropriate online sexual activities involving children to:

**Montgomery County Police Department
Family Crimes Division**
240-773-5400
www.montgomerycountymd.gov

The CyberTipline
1-800-843-8000
www.missingkids.com/cybertip

Report inappropriate online activity within the school system to

Montgomery County Public Schools CyberSafety
CyberSafety@mcpsmd.org
301-279-3669

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CYBERSAFETY PARTNERS



Office of the State's Attorney
Montgomery County, MD Judicial Center
50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-7300
www.communityprosecution.org



Montgomery County Department of Police
Family Crimes Division
240-773-5400
911 Emergency
www.montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-309-6277
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

CyberSafety



*A joint project of the
Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
Montgomery County Police Department
and Montgomery County Public Schools,
dedicated to providing information to
parents and students about
Internet safety.*

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety

CRUISING THE INTERNET HIGHWAY AND THE E-MAIL EXPRESS SAFELY

THE IMPORTANT RULES FOR SAFETY!

- **Never** give out personal or identifying information such as name, address, school name, parents' names, pets, etc.
- **Report** any inappropriate site you access to a trusted adult.
- **Never** respond to messages that are obscene or threatening.
- **Never** meet someone face to face that you have met online.

Educating children about the Internet is the first step in ensuring their online safety.

Parents can improve Internet safety by setting family rules for using the Internet. Montgomery County Public Schools supports Internet safety by using technology protection measures to examine the content of Internet sites and block inappropriate content. Parents also can set monitoring or blocking filters on home computers.

However, only through partnerships between parents and children can safety be ensured.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is intentionally embarrassing, humiliating, threatening, or targeting an individual or group of people using e-mail, instant messaging, social sites, blogs, mobile phones, or other technological methods. Cyberbullying comes in many forms, including the following:

- **Flaming**—sending angry, rude, or vulgar messages directed at another person in private or in a public forum.
- **Harassment**—repeatedly sending a person offensive messages.
- **Masquerade**—pretending to be someone else and posting false information or placing another in danger.
- **Outing and trickery**—sending or posting sensitive, private, or embarrassing material about a person.

Contact police whenever cyberbullying involves death threats or other forms of violence to a person or property. Victims also may have a legal right to claim damages for defamation, invasion of privacy, or intentional infliction of emotional distress.

SEXTING

Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit photographs or sexual text messages electronically—primarily transmitted between cell phones. It is estimated that one in five teens has sent a sexually explicit photo of themselves to another friend. Transmission and possession of indecent photos of underage children is a violation of child pornography laws. For more information visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety/sexting.aspx.

WARNING SIGNS

The FBI has listed several warning signs taken from actual investigations involving child victims. Signs include large amounts of time spent online, presence of porn, mysterious phone calls, receipt of unexplained gifts, hiding the computer screen as parents approach, and withdrawing from normal activities and social interaction. If there is a suspicion of any of those signs, consider the following steps:

- Talk with your child about your concerns.
- Review what is on your child's computer. If you don't know how, seek advice from a knowledgeable person.
- Use the Caller ID service to determine who is contacting your child.

Immediately contact your local, state, or federal authorities, or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, should an alarming event occur via the Internet.

(See contact information on the back panel of this brochure.)

STUDENTS USING THE INTERNET AT SCHOOL

- Students should report to teachers any inappropriate sites they may have accessed.
- Students should tell a teacher if someone on the Internet asks to meet them face to face or sends inappropriate information.
- The school system has an Internet security officer who assists students and parents with information on Internet safety, password protection, computer viruses, and privacy issues. Call 301-279-3669 on weekdays.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Always supervise young children when they are on the Web.
- Locate the computer in a central area in your home.
- Help your children find information online.
- Make computer use a family activity—get to know your child's online and other friends.
- Don't allow children to give out personal information, such as home address, phone number, or school name.
- Discuss the difference between reliable and unreliable sources of information with your child. Remind children that everything they read on the Internet may not be real.
- Consider rating, blocking, monitoring, and filtering applications for your computer.
- Set reasonable rules regarding time of day, length of time, people with whom they may communicate, and appropriate areas for them to visit online.

PARENTAL CONTROL TOOLS

Restricting access to websites is an effective way to help keep children safe on the Internet. There are three places where you can find the tools to help you limit what your child can access while he or she is surfing.

- Internet Service Providers, such as Comcast and Verizon, offer a range of parental control features, often for free.
- Many Web browsers, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, have controls that you can adjust to enforce parental-control rating systems.
- Blocking or filtering software, such as Cyber Patrol and CYBERSitter, are available at your local computer or retail store. Install this on your home computer.

Parental filtering or blocking tools are very useful, but they are NOT 100% effective.

E-MAIL AND CHAT ACRONYMS

New language, acronyms, and slang are created every day on the Internet. Below are a few examples.

ADN	Any day now
AFAIK	As far as I know
AFK	Away from keyboard
a/s/l or asl	Age/sex/location
BAKB	Back at keyboard
BBL	Be back later
BCNU	I'll be seeing you
BRB	Be right back
CUOL	See you online
DIKU	Do I know you?
F2F	Face to face
g/f	Girl friend
GGOH	Gotta get outta here
KIT	Keep in touch
OL	the old lady
OM	the old man
P911	Parents are in the room
POS or POTS	Parents are looking over my shoulder
SPST	Same place, same time
SYL	See you later
TAW	Teachers are watching
TTYL	Talk to you later
WTGP?	Want to go private?
YBS	You'll be sorry

POPULAR STUDENT INTERNET SITES

- **Myspace.com.** As a parent, you can create your own account and see what your children and their friends are posting.
- **Facebook.com.** You must be "invited" to join. College and high school students each have special meeting areas.
- **YouTube.com** lets users upload, view, and share video clips.