Date: March 18, 2024

Subject: Important Message Regarding Recent Incident and Digital Literacy Education

Dear Nippersink SD 2 and Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out to provide an update on a recent incident that took place involving Richmond-Burton Students and to share some important information regarding digital literacy education for our students.

Last week, it came to light that a student at Richmond-Burton CHS utilized artificial intelligence to create inappropriate images of other students. While there is currently no indication of involvement from any Nippersink SD 2 students, we are actively monitoring the situation and cooperating fully with the Richmond Police Department's investigation.

This incident underscores the critical need for ongoing improvement and expansion of our digital literacy education efforts, especially as parents. The rapid evolution of social media platforms and the integration of artificial intelligence into our daily lives necessitate a fresh approach to educating students on responsible online behavior. In light of this, I'd like to share some proactive measures and approaches with you:

Sign Up for Our Smart Social Platform: Our school districts provide a smart social platform designed to alert parents to any social media issues affecting their children. By registering for this platform, you'll receive timely notifications and insights into your child's online activities, enabling you to address any concerns promptly. Smart Social Registration Link

Monitor Your Children's Devices: It's crucial to familiarize yourself with your child's devices, including phones, tablets, and computers. Regularly check for any unfamiliar apps or accounts, and engage in open conversations with your child about their online activities.

Closely Monitor Social Media Settings: Take the time to review and closely monitor who can view your child's social media profiles. Over time, numerous contacts may have been added without careful consideration. Regularly reviewing and updating privacy settings can help safeguard your child's online presence and mitigate risks.

Encourage Non-Technology Activities: While technology undoubtedly enriches our lives, it's equally important to encourage your child to engage in non-technology activities. Encourage hobbies, sports, arts, and other pursuits that foster social interaction and personal growth. Establishing boundaries for screen time and promoting a healthy balance between online and offline activities can help reduce the likelihood of similar incidents in the future.

We recognize that navigating the complexities of technology and social media can be daunting for parents and guardians. However, by working together and implementing proactive measures, we can cultivate a safer online environment for our children.

We remain committed to partnering with you to address the needs of all our students effectively.

Sincerely,

Tom Lind

Dr. Tom Lind
Superintendent of Schools