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Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown

Nicole Santora, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Schools has been using Google accounts with Chromebooks for the past several years, and we remain committed to increasing online security of student devices and information as well as remaining compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2011 (CIPA). That act requires us to conduct monitoring and filtering of student internet devices and accounts.

We have selected to implement GoGuardian services to assist us with this. We are currently using two of their products:
- GoGuardian Admin - the website filtering service
- GoGuardian Teacher - the classroom management and screen monitoring system

It may be helpful to know that over 10,000 other schools use GoGuardian to protect 5.5 million students across the world, and the Global Educator Institute has endorsed the GoGuardian Teacher product.

How are we using GoGuardian?

We have chosen GoGuardian Admin and GoGuardian Teacher services to:
- Help protect students against harmful and inappropriate online material by filtering and blocking access to websites
- Help students stay more focused when learning online
- Helping assess students' progress towards class assignments
- Facilitating communication between teachers and students during class time

When and how does GoGuardian operate?

GoGuardian's services operate on our school's managed Google Suite for Education accounts, meaning it is activated when a student is logged into any device, school or personal, using Google Chrome with his/her school email address (@mersnj.us).

Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District enables teachers to use GoGuardian Teacher monitoring with students in their classes only during school hours from 7:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. GoGuardian Admin website filtering is automatically enabled whenever a student is logged into a Google for Education Chrome school account.
Please note: As stated above, GoGuardian is active any time a student is logged into their school account regardless of what computer the student is using; therefore, parents and families are advised to log out of school accounts when using a personal device for non-school purposes.

What are the school's responsibilities?

Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Schools selected GoGuardian services to help our students stay safer and more scholarly online. Through our curriculum, we will work with students during class time to help teach them digital responsibility and safety. Additionally, we will train teachers about how to operate GoGuardian and about our policies and procedures to help protect student privacy.

What are my parental/guardian and child's responsibilities?

We ask that students use their school-managed (@mersnj.us) Google accounts and school-managed devices for educational purposes within the boundaries of Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Schools' Acceptable Use Policy Agreement.

While we filter and monitor our school-managed accounts, when a student is off campus, parents are responsible for supervising internet access and usage. We encourage you to discuss rules for appropriate internet usage with your child and reinforce lessons of digital citizenship and safety with him or her. We also highly encourage you to report any potential cyberbullying or other sensitive issues to your child's principal.

How does GoGuardian help protect my child's privacy?

To help your child remain safe online, GoGuardian allows the tracking of each student's browsing history. GoGuardian Teacher also monitors teacher/student chat messages.

GoGuardian has consulted with privacy experts, participates in privacy organizations, is a proud signatory of the Student Privacy Pledge, and has been awarded certifications by iKeepSafe for complying with both the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and California student privacy laws. For more detailed information about GoGuardian, you may visit GoGuardian's website, Trust & Privacy Center, GoGuardian's Product Privacy Policy.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping our school environment, both in-person and remote, safe, healthy, and productive.

We are here to answer any questions that you may have. You may also find the MERS GoGuardian parent/guardian FAQ's helpful.

Sincerely,
Michael Vaccarino
Director of Information Systems