



**Clark Mills School**  
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November 15, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to create a partnership with you regarding your child's use of social media. In complying with The Children's Online and Privacy Protection Act of 1998, social media apps that our children use (such as Snapchat, Facebook, and Instagram) all have terms of agreement that require the user to acknowledge his/her age as 13 years of age or older. Our children are not yet developmentally ready to handle such privacy and largely unmonitored independence. Other sites like TikTok have sub sites that limit access and information sharing for users younger than 13. **All Clark Mills School students are younger than 13 years of age.** As a community, we ask every family to abide by the terms of agreement and age requirement. If everyone followed this agreement, no parent would feel compelled to allow their child use of social media for fear of being the only child without access.

If you have chosen to allow your child on social media sites like Snapchat, TikTok, or Instagram, etc., we implore you to view what your child is accessing/discussing. Furthermore, student accounts should be reviewed regularly by a parent/guardian. While reviewing your child's account, please take the time to discuss some common misuses we are noticing as a school:

- Remind children to create account names that are appropriate and free from explicit language
- Remind children to avoid cyber bullying. There is no reason to post anything negative about a peer on any social media platform.
- Remind children that they should NOT accept "follow" requests from a stranger or from an account of which they have no idea who the owner is.

In many cases, our students do not realize the consequences of their actions and that the misuse of social media may jeopardize the safety of their school community, friends and themselves. Our goal is to ensure that every student grows academically, builds character, and is a productive member of our community. This includes the appropriate use of social media. To this end, we have partnered with the Manalapan Police Department who provided an Internet Safety assembly to our 4th and 5th graders. Further, our school counselor has conducted lessons with every class in addition to our morning announcements and PBSIS expectations that reinforce respectful behavior expectations. I strongly urge you to seriously evaluate the benefit that social media at such a young age provides to your children. Thank you for partnering with us to help keep our students and staff safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [jorlando@mersnj.us](mailto:jorlando@mersnj.us) or [jgent@mersnj.us](mailto:jgent@mersnj.us) at (732) 786-2720.

Thank you for your on-going support!

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Jayme Orlando*  
Mrs. Jayme Orlando  
Principal

*Mrs. Jessica Gent*  
Mrs. Jessica Gent  
Assistant Principal