



Manalapan-Englishtown Middle School

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am reaching out to you today to foster a partnership regarding your child's use of social media. Our schools are facing a growing concern, as many students are not developmentally ready to handle the privacy and largely unmonitored independence that social media offers. As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape, it is crucial that we take the time to emphasize the importance of instilling good digital citizenship values in our children. In today's interconnected world, where technology plays an integral role in our daily lives, it is essential that we guide our children to become responsible and respectful digital citizens.

The Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District is committed not only to providing a comprehensive education but also to preparing our students to navigate the digital world safely and ethically. Just as we teach them to be kind and respectful in person, it is equally important to encourage these behaviors online. This includes being mindful of their digital footprint, respecting others' privacy, and using technology responsibly.

In collaboration with the Manalapan Township Police Department, we have prepared a short Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding the use of technology, including but not limited to social media and smartphones. We encourage you to take a few moments to watch [this brief video](#) with your family.

We urge you to maintain parental oversight by setting parameters that allow you to monitor what your child is accessing and discussing online. Please take the time to talk with your child about the serious consequences that can result from inappropriate use of social media.



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Student misuse of social media is a significant concern, and we need your support in addressing it. Please have conversations with your child about the potential consequences of participating in harmful online trends or engaging in activities that involve humiliating others, assault, theft, or damage to school property. The consequences of these actions may include:

- Detention
- Suspension
- Police involvement, with possible charges for theft, vandalism, harassment, or assault
- Loss of privileges, including participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, as well as attendance at athletic games, dances, and graduation events
- Our goal is to ensure that every student grows academically, builds character, and becomes a productive member of our community. To support this effort, we have partnered with the Manalapan Police Department to provide an Internet Safety and Anti-Bullying Assembly for students. We strongly encourage you to carefully consider the impact social media may have on children at a young age.

Thank you for partnering with us to help keep our students and staff safe.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 732-786-2650.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael Fiorillo