**Technology Services**

NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Cybersecurity Tips
## For Northside ISD Parents and Guardians

Northside ISD is committed to providing all students with a safe and secure online environment. We believe that internet safety education is a shared responsibility, and we encourage parents and guardians to actively guide their children's online activities. This document contains valuable tips and resources to help you and your family stay safe online. By working together, we can empower our students to become responsible digital citizens.

**Tips for Parents and Guardians**

**Be Honest About Threats:**
Have open conversations with your children about online threats and the importance of safeguarding their personal information.

**Stay Current:**
Keep up with the latest online safety practices and technologies.
Visit staysafeonline.org or other reliable websites for current information. Share your findings with your family and have regular discussions about online privacy.

**Remain Positively Engaged:**
Be aware of the online platforms your children use. Guide them towards safe and trustworthy websites and apps. Encourage them to exercise caution when clicking links, downloading files, posting, and uploading content.
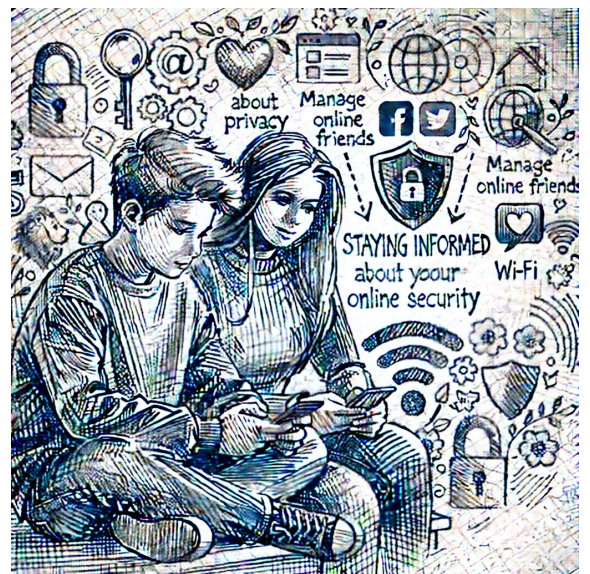


**Tips to Share with Your Children**

- **Personal Information is Like Money:**
Explain to your children that their personal information, such as online activities and preferences, has value. Teach them to be selective about sharing information with apps and websites. Discuss what types of information are safe to share and what should be kept private (e.g., addresses, photos, phone numbers).

- **What Happens Online Stays Online:** Emphasize to your children that anything they share online can be copied and is nearly impossible to erase. Help them understand the potential consequences of their online posts and how they might be perceived in the future.
- **Own Your Online Presence:** Teach your children about internet privacy from an early age. Guide them in using privacy and security settings on their preferred online games, apps, and platforms. Configure these settings together and explain why certain features are restricted (like location tracking).
- **Post Only About Others as You Would Like Them to Post About You:** Remind your children about the golden rule and its relevance online. Emphasize that their online actions can positively or negatively impact others.

**Tips to Share with Teens**

- **Privacy and Security Settings Exist for a Reason:** Encourage your teens to learn about and utilize social media's privacy and security settings. Explain how these settings can help them control their online experience and protect their privacy.
- **Keep Personal Info Personal:** Advise teens to be cautious about sharing personal information on social networking sites. Explain that the more information they share, the easier it becomes for hackers or others to misuse it for identity theft, data breaches, or other harmful activities.
- **Once Posted, Always Posted:** Help your teens understand that their online posts can have long-lasting consequences. Encourage them to think twice before sharing content that could negatively impact their reputation or future opportunities.
- **Be Aware of What's Being Shared:** Remind your teens that when they post pictures or videos online, they might inadvertently reveal information about others or personal details about themselves, such as their location, school, or hangout spots.
- **Know and Manage Your Friends:** Discuss the importance of managing online friendships. Explain that not all online friends are trustworthy. Encourage your teens to be selective about friend requests and to only connect with people they know and trust in real life.

- **Know What Action to Take:** Teach teens how to respond to online harassment or threats. Instruct them to remove, block, and report individuals engaging in such behavior.
- **Know What's Being Collected, Who is Collecting it, and How it Will be Used:** Explain to your teens that their online activities and preferences are valuable data that companies collect. Encourage them to be mindful of who has access to their information and how it is used.
- **Use Secure Wi-Fi:** Caution your teens against using public Wi-Fi networks, as they are not secure and can expose their online activities to others. Recommend using a virtual private network (VPN) for a more secure connection when using public Wi-Fi.
- **Now You See Me, Now You Don't:** Inform teens that some stores and locations track devices with Wi-Fi or Bluetooth enabled. Advise them to turn off these features when not in use and limit their free public Wi-Fi use.

Remember, by staying informed and having open conversations with your children, you can help them navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. For further information and resources, please visit the Northside ISD Technology Services website at
https://www.nisd.net/district/technology