

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

At Monte Vista Christian Middle School your child will be taking part in classroom lessons from the Common Sense Media Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum. The goal of this curriculum is to encourage young people to harness the power of the Internet and digital technology for learning, and to become safe, responsible and savvy digital citizens. In the curriculum, students will learn that they can take steps to monitor their online privacy, protect their physical and emotional well-being, and think critically about the information they share online. Through hands-on activities and classroom discussion, your child will understand what information is appropriate to share online, with whom, and in what contexts.

What we teach

In these lessons, your child will:

- Learn how to identify, avoid, and deal with unwanted contact online
- Apply strategies to create strong passwords that protect and secure their information
- Evaluate privacy policies to determine how companies collect information about visitors to their websites
- Understand how to protect themselves against online identity theft.

What families can do

Common Sense Media takes a holistic school-community approach to digital literacy and citizenship and provides parent educational resources to help you support your child's learning. As we complete these lessons in class, we will be sending home parent tip sheets, links to online videos, and an occasional homework activity for you to do with your child. We encourage you to read and view the parent materials, have fun with the homework activities, and use this as an opportunity to share and learn about online safety and security together. If you have access to the Internet at home or at work, you can visit the Common Sense Media website at www.common sense media.org and take a look at the parent resources on kids and media. Here are some tips you can use to teach your children about safety and security:

Safety:

- **Establish rules for who it's okay to talk to.** Online talk should be with people your children know, like family and friends.
- **Remind your kids to never give strangers private information.** Kids should never give out their name, address, school, phone number, email, pictures, or anything that could identify who they are.

Security:

- **Help your kids master the fine art of password creation.** It can actually be fun to develop really good passwords. (See more details on how to do this in the Security Parent Tip Sheet.) Strong passwords are a key defense against unauthorized access to your information, as well as helping prevent identify theft.

We are excited about this curriculum and look forward to sharing more with you about our activities in the classroom in the weeks ahead. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ray Blute, Principal