Internet Safety Guidelines

Chromebooks require an Internet connection for use. Although Cabarrus County Schools has taken advanced precautions to help prevent accidental access to inappropriate or harmful material on the Internet, there are additional precautions that should be taken by individual users as well.

Listed below are some basic guidelines that, when followed, should help protect your privacy and online experience. Keep in mind that the internet is a global community. There is no complete list of guidelines that will protect users from every threat. Using good judgment, making common sense decisions, and following basic guidelines are your best defense.

- **Protect your identity:**
  - Never share your username or password with anyone other than your parents or a legal guardian.
  - Never share your personal information with websites or strangers.

- **Make good decisions when using Email**. If you don't know the sender, <u>don't open the email</u>. If you open the email, don't panic. Close the email and delete it. Never open the attachment or click any links in the message.

- **What Happens Now – Matters Later.** Privacy online, including social media and other popular social apps are not private. Anything posted today can be seen years from now by college admissions, potential employers or complete strangers.

- **In Person vs Online.** If you wouldn't say it or do it in person, you shouldn't online.

- **Remember to THINK Before you post**. THINK is an easy acronym to remember and measure your post against before sharing. **T**= is it true? **H**= is it helpful? **I**= does it inspire? **N**= is it necessary? **K**= is it kind? Your post should answer yes to at least two of these.

- **If you See Something – Say Something**. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System allows you to submit secure & anonymous safety concerns to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals BEFORE they hurt themselves or others. You can do this by reporting observed threats, behaviors, actions and harassment. Follow this link for more information or to report a concern: <u>SEE IT. REPORT IT.</u>