

Superintendent's Message – April 16, 2019

When it comes to keeping our schools safe and for helping students make good decisions, we need your help. We are all working together to keep our schools safe places for your children and our staff. Based on some recent events, I am writing to ask for your extra help and support.

One of the greatest problems our school officials face are issues that begin outside of school, in the evenings or weekends, when students interact through social media.

Students get into fights at school, bully one another, share inappropriate pictures, harass others, and may even question their self-worth due to interactions over their cell phones and social media.

My request is: please monitor your child's phone! Consider limiting its use to when you are present and other restrictions so that you know about your child's friends and whereabouts. In cases where problems occur, limit or curtail social media use.

I realize these may seem like drastic measures, but what we hear from parents is that these are the parents' phones that children are using. It can be the case that the phone is being used to distribute child pornography if sexting or nude images of teens are being stored or sent. The phone may be used to bully, harass and intimidate others.

We deal with serious matters daily in our schools. We know we cannot go back in time, but we can all be more vigilant and ensure our children are not using phones for illegal, unethical practices.

Perhaps consider the phone you have purchased for your child's use to be like permitting your son/daughter to visit a friend's house or another place. We want to know where our children are and if there is proper supervision. Knowing where they visit in the cyber world, whom they interact with, and what they do there may seem too restrictive. However, the threats posed by students being in unsafe places, threatening or being threatened loom large in children's worlds. We would appreciate your active engagement with your child's online world.

Educationally yours,

Jerry Wilson, PhD

Superintendent