



OWEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our mission at Owen County Schools is to provide opportunities and resources where all students will develop perseverance and a passion for life-long learning in a safe and supportive educational environment

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Owen County Schools are committed to safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of our students. As such, we want to inform you of the latest series of online challenges targeting youth and teens called “The Momo Challenge.”

It is essentially “played” over social media platforms such as YouTube, WhatsApp, and Facebook. The player then enters into a conversation that involves directions to complete challenges that can include self-harm or other dangerous behaviors. There is speculation that innocent videos contain pop-up advertisements with the image of the challenge.

Recently, the trend has been covered extensively in the news and over social media. While evidence of the disturbing behaviors of the game is limited, the coverage has understandably caused concern for parents and staff.

Although the challenge appears to be more fear than fact, it is important for parents to always talk to their children about online safety and cyberbullying. Parents can ask their child whether they have seen anything online that has upset them or worried them, and explain that there are often things that happen online that can be misleading or frightening and that some things are solely designed to get a lot of attention.

We also recommend that parents review the online safety and security on their child’s device. Always be diligent in monitoring online use. Please take the time to talk to your child about the do’s and do not’s of online behavior and use parental controls.

Although it is not a direct threat in our schools please take this matter seriously. Owen County Schools District complies with the online Children’s Internet Protection Act and enforces a filtering system. However, there is never a 100% guarantee that content will be censored other than diligence of adults to monitor online use. We also urge parents to visit our district technology webpage for a list of applications that are deemed unsafe because they could put kids in danger. If you have any additional questions please contact Owen County Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Stafford, Superintendent
Owen County Schools