The KCS Experience

Aloha KCS Family,

This is **Phill Schmidt** your IT director and Dean of Students at Kihei Charter High School. I have been with the school since its first year. I have seen the school go from using the Kihei Youth Center facilities to our new and future school in the Maui Tech Park. As the school has grown and evolved so has technology and the dangers it can pose. I would like to talk to you about technology safety.

No matter how young and agile we are, the human brain just isn't capable of doing several things at once and giving full attention to all of them. So you can get into some major danger if you try to text in situations that require your full focus.

To avoid an injury — whether it's a cut on your face or a bruise to your ego — or a horrible tragedy, try to use your best judgment. Text only when you're not putting yourself or others in harm's way. And if you're riding in a car with a driver who is texting, ask him or her to stop or try not to ride with that person again.

Don't respond to inappropriate requests. Research shows that a high percentage of teens receive inappropriate messages and solicitations when they're online. These can be scary, strange, and even embarrassing. If you feel harassed by a stranger or a friend online, tell an adult you trust immediately. It is never a good idea to respond. Responding is only likely to make things worse, and might result in you saying something you wish you hadn't.

Take it offline. In general, if you have questions about the trail you're leaving online, don't be afraid to ask a trusted adult. Sure, you might know more about the online world than a lot of adults do, but they have life experience that can help.

Finally, remember that any pictures or text messages that you send could become "leaked," or public, as soon as you hit send. Think about whether the words you've written or the pictures you're about to share are ones that you would want other people reading or seeing. It's always better to be safe than sorry. A good rule is that if you wouldn't want your grandmother to see it or read it, you probably shouldn't send it or post it.

Apps

SentTell is an Android application designed to prevent inappropriate pictures being sent by youth. The application allows parents to monitor their child's smartphone by notifying them whenever photos are taken using their children's camera. Anytime a photo is taken that photo is immediately forwarded to the parents email address.

Bully Block captures and block bullies that are causing you and your family harm. Bully Block has been featured on tech blogs such as Gizmodo, Appmodo, Ubergizmo, and many more. The Bully Block app allows users to covertly record verbal threats and harassment, block inappropriate texts and pictures (e.g. sexting), and utilize auto respond features. Unlike other apps on the market, Bully Block blocks bullies that utilize private or unknown numbers to engage in cyberbullying. Bully Block also has instant reporting features that allow the user to email or text abusive behavior to parents.

Life360 makes it easy to help protect the people who matter most.
With Life360 you can:
• View the real-time location of Circle Members on a private family map that's only visible on Family Locator
• Receive real-time alerts when Circle Members arrive at or leave destinations (Eliminate disruptive "Where are you?" texts)
• Track stolen phones or lost phones
• alerts you when family members have checked in at a location and thanks to GPS Tracking technology, family tracker can also advise if someone is running late.
• Locate both Android Phones and iPhones with Family Locator!

Ghostbuster is a software program which you can easily install on your device for Privacy Guidance on Social Networking sites and online/offline threat reporting.
Ghostbuster will check your Facebook social network profile and issue alerts in case your privacy settings are inadequate making you vulnerable to online predators.
Connect to your parent and your school dashboard allowing you to report online and offline threat incidents at a click of a button. You can also send threat reports anonymously.
Live chat anonymously with a child safety Counselors in real-time straight from the app.
If you have additional questions or would like to talk to me more about keeping your student safe online or the road please don't hesitate to contact me at pschmidt@kcsohana.com or 808-875-0700

Be Tech Safe!