



Web Safety for Teens

Use this information from Mrs. Woods, Library Media Specialist, to stay safe and use the internet at home.

1. Keep Your Identity Private

If you're in any type of public forum, avoid giving out your full name, your mailing address, your telephone number, the name of your school, or any other information that could help someone determine your actual identity. The same applies to your family and friends. Never reveal anything about other people that could possibly get them into trouble.

2. Never Get Together with Someone You “Meet” Online

The biggest danger to your safety is if you get together with someone you “meet” online. Remember, you never know for certain if people you meet online are who they say they are. If you do feel it's appropriate to meet with someone, discuss it with your parents and never go to the meeting by yourself. Arrange to meet in a public place like a coffee shop or mall that you, not just the other person, are familiar and comfortable with, and never go alone. The safest procedure is to have your parents talk with the parents of the other person and for both of you to bring your parents along on the first meeting.

3. Never Respond To E-Mail, Chat Comments, Instant Messages Or Other Messages That Are Hostile, Belligerent, Inappropriate Or In Any Way Make You Feel Uncomfortable

It isn't your fault if you get a message that is mean or in any way makes you feel uncomfortable. If you get such a message, don't respond. Instead, show it to your parents or a trusted adult to see if there is anything you can do to make it stop. Sending a response just encourages the person.

4. Talk with your Parents About Their Expectations and Ground Rules for Going Online

It's important that you and your parents are on the same “channel” when it comes to your online activities. This includes when you can go online, how long you can stay online, and what activities you can do online. Communicating with your

parents doesn't mean that you have to give up your privacy. It just means that you come to an agreement based on mutual trust and understanding. While you're at it, perhaps you can help your parents better understand the Internet, what it can be used for, and how it is helpful for teens.

5. Use safe and reliable sites for research

Mrs. Woods and other teachers at KHS are going to help you with the best sites for each research project. Use reliable resources like World Book Online. Use the sites that your teacher recommends first. Check the [KHS Research Help Center](#) for every project. Watch out for web sites that are promoting a certain point of view. If you have any doubt that the information is not true, then don't use it. If you are having trouble doing research for a school project ask your teacher and Mrs. Woods your Teacher-Librarian for help. E-mail Mrs. Woods to double check a web site at cwoods@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us. Be sure and put in the subject box "from a KHS student."

Information for this web site was put together with help from www.safeteens.com and the Virginia Department of Education.

For more information visit the following sites.

Net Smartz for Teens <http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm>

Look at the videoclips to find out how "real teens" need to stay safe

Tips by Teens for Teens

<http://kids.getnetwise.org/safetyguide/teens>

Safe Teens

<http://www.safeteens.com/>

Don't Believe the Type: Surf Safer – ID the Creep Game

<http://tcs.cybertipline.com/surfsafer.htm>

Internet Super Heroes explain the dangers – Spiderman, Incredible Hulk, X-Men, Spider Girl, Daredevil

<http://www.internetsuperheroes.org/cyberbullying/index.html>