

## **Internet Safety**

The Auburn Public School District believes in providing a safe and secure technological environment for staff and students. The District adheres to the Child Internet Protection Act and filters all Internet traffic for inappropriate material.

We understand that Internet Safety is an important issue to school staff and parents. The growth of the Internet, and new Internet based technologies, has brought with it serious concerns about the online activities and habits of our children. All parents should attempt to be aware the

### **What can YOU do?**

#### **Tips for Staying Safe Online**

- The key to keeping our children safe online is no different than keeping them safe in the real world. Parents need to communicate with children regarding the dangers present on the Internet.
- Take the time to discuss with them why they need to be careful online and create an acceptable set of guidelines for them to follow. Place the computer in a visible area in your home, not their bedrooms or other private rooms.
- We strongly urge you to limit your child's computer and TV time to a total of no more than two hours a day . This is a recommendation from the Massachusetts Dept. of Health.
- Encourage them to report suspicious behavior. Let them know they won't get in trouble if they tell you about activity that frightens, confuses, or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Maintain access to their accounts and randomly check their activity. Speak with your children about why you do this and explain it is for their safety.
- Utilize parental control software from your Internet Provider or other commercial packages. Filtering software significantly decreases access to inappropriate material. Remember, they are not 100% effective so don't rely completely on them.
- Inform your children that people online are not always who they say they are. Many people assume false identities to entice children to talk with them.
- Inform your children not to post photos of themselves online or send them to people they meet on the Internet.

- Inform your children to never give out personal information about themselves or others online. This includes name, address, phone number, school, parents' names, etc.
- Tell them to never download photos from unknown sources, including file sharing programs. There is a good chance that this will be hidden or renamed obscene material.
- Tell them to never reply or respond to inappropriate, harassing, obscene, or suggestive posts, e-mails, or messages.
- Tell them under no circumstances are they ever to arrange to meet anyone that they meet online. Should anyone propose a meeting, they should tell an authority immediately.