



KELLENBERG MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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November, 2013

Dear Seventh Grade Parents,

As you know, electronic media, while useful at times, can produce many problems. In American society we have seen electronic media being used all too often for harassment and bullying. This can cause great damage to any young person. The impact this harassment has on adolescents is that it damages their self esteem and sometimes leads to self destructive behavior. There have been a multitude of these tragedies reported by the news media in America.

As a school, we have no direct control over your children's use of electronic media. It is necessary, though, for you to realize some of them are utilizing these websites. The result of this use reverberates in school and can have a great effect on the students' lives and social interactions.

We want to bring to your attention a new electronic medium called ask.fm. While most of our students have become proficient in the likes of facebook and instagram, this new website has added a new concern because of the nature of the site. Ask.fm allows adolescents to create a profile of themselves with a picture and a screen name. Once a profile is created, members can friend one another in a similar fashion to facebook. At that point, users can post questions and their friends can post responses. When these questions are answered, they can be answered anonymously. At the present time, we are aware that this site is being used on a regular basis by many of our seventh grade students and most likely others. The anonymity allows for the site to be permeated with "rating systems" and derogatory questions that ridicule peers. It also allows for personal harassment and degradation of character. We ask you to be aware of what your child is doing on the computer as well as on his or her cell phone. Many social media sites have apps that allow adolescents to access these sites on their phones. We ask that you be conscious of how your child is using electronic communication.

This is a serious matter that needs to be addressed. The improper usage, or abuse of electronic media destroys adolescents, harming their sense of integrity and damaging their reputations. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Miss Maria Korzekwinski
Assistant Principal for the Latin School

Mrs. Tara Riker
Latin School Dean of Students

Mr. Brendan Narell
Latin School Dean of Boys