Internet Safety

No doubt many of you are aware of some of the risks these social networking websites may pose to our students. Incidents of cyber-bullying, threats of violence, and Internet sexual predators have become all too common in recent years, and schools nationwide have witnessed a sharp increase in disciplinary actions based on information posted by students on websites or transmitted through other electronic media.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with how these technologies work and the dangers they may pose to your children. The United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has posted safety guides and other information on social networking sites at http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2006/05/socialnetworking.shtm.

More generally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has produced a "Parent's Internet Guide to Safety," which is available at http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm, and the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children has produced a series of documents for educators on Internet safety, http://www.netsmartz.org/educators.htm.

Please share any particular concerns you may have about individual students' Internet activities with the appropriate school-based administrators.