The third full week of October is Kentucky Safe Schools Week!

Schools across Kentucky focus on school safety issues in classrooms, in their schools and in their communities.
This year’s theme is “Our Safety Story!”

Every school has its own cast of characters weaving the fabric of its own Safety Story.

Our schools are composed of students/staff who are a host of likely characters with a variety of interests and talents. We ask that you join us across Kentucky, each and every school, as we embrace unity, kindness and empathy to enhance “Our Safety Story”
It’s exciting to have the newest, coolest, trendiest cell phone on the market. These days, that phone has photo and video capabilities.

Silly photos and embarrassing videos aside, cameras and texting have given you a new and dangerous way to invade others’ privacy and on impulse, share your own risky photos: sexting.
Sexting...Define

• Sexting is the exchange of sexually suggestive messages or images between minors via cell phone. For example, a girl might take an “inappropriate” picture of herself and send it to her boyfriend.

Sometimes teens share the photographs voluntarily, but at other times teens may be coerced into taking or sending the photographs. Once the photos are sent, some kids use them to bully, harass, intimidate, or embarrass victims online or via mobile devices.
For example, a girl might take an “inappropriate” picture of herself and send it to **her boyfriend**. Her boyfriend may forward the picture to one or two friends, who then decide to forward the picture to others.

In this way, **the girl’s picture could travel all over the Web**, amassing countless viewers in a very short period of time. Sexting is the exchange of sexually suggestive messages or images between minors using a cell phone or tablet.
• Some teens have been coerced into sexting when a boyfriend or girlfriend makes it a requirement for continuing their relationship. Others have been blackmailed into sharing these photos by threats to expose previously taken pictures or losing a friendship.
Please note that sexting does not include situations in which young people are coerced or blackmailed into sending sexually explicit images of themselves to adults. These adults are predators and the incident should be reported to law enforcement immediately.
Snap-Chat

- Be careful...
- It might seem fun.
- Easy for anyone to save your snaps and forward them on without you knowing.
- Remember this next time silly gets risky....
- STOP! Don’t send it!
- (consider Snap-Chat a photo app and use it as if you know the photo will be saved)
Selfies and Self Esteem

- Taking a picture of yourself and posting it has become a virtual phenomena. Celebs are doing it, athletes are doing it and the President is doing it!
- The problem is when you post and ask for virtual judgment of your facial beauty.
- Instagram is exploding with games using hashtags such as #beautycontest, #rankme, #rateme and #amipretty
- Consider who is commenting on your photo.
- The comments are mostly for shock value and they may be lewd and damaging to your self-worth.
- When you need advice about hair, make-up or eyewear ask someone you trust who will give you a fair assessment.
- Don’t randomly place selfies on the web and ask for comments from contributors you don’t know and will never see or face in real life.
• It doesn’t matter how clever the concealer of inappropriate pictures and videos is...
• Sexting and having that type of material on your cell phone or tablet has harsh consequences...
• **STOP! Don’t conceal them, don’t make them, don’t post them, don’t send them...**
1. Think about the Consequences...

- Of **taking, sending, or forwarding** a sexual picture of someone underage, even **if it’s of you**.
- You could
  - get kicked-off sports teams,
  - get kicked-off cheering squads,
  - face humiliation,
  - lose educational privileges,
  - and even **get in trouble with the law**.
Ally’s Story

- [https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/lesson/overexposed-sexting-and-relationships](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/lesson/overexposed-sexting-and-relationships)
2. Never Take...

- Pictures of yourself that you wouldn’t want **everyone** to see
  - Classmates
  - Family
  - Teachers
  - Employers
- **Think ahead**
  - College Recruiters
  - Future Employers
  - Future Spouses and their Families
  - Your Children

*Don’t let anyone pressure you into it!*
3. Think before you send.

- Remember **you cannot control who will see that picture** or read that message once it hits the internet.
- **You cannot take it back.**
- What you send to a girlfriend or boyfriend can be forwarded to their friends, acquaintances, online chat buddies, etc...
- **Out of spite your image can travel to people you do not want it to reach.**
- **It could change a life forever.**
Then there's the emotional (and reputation) damage that can come from having intimate photos of yourself go to someone you might've thought was a friend or potential friend who forwards them on in what amounts to a violation of your trust.

That can be really hurtful, obviously. And as you know, digital photos are too easy to copy and paste onto the Web, where they can be archived and searchable pretty much forever.
• Forward a sexual picture of someone underage (under 18) you are as responsible for this image as the original sender.

• IT'S ILLEGAL

• You can face...
  – Pornography charges
  – Go to jail
  – Register as a Sex Offender
A Look at the LAW

- **It's illegal.** For maximum safety and peace of mind, do not share inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos of yourself or anyone else.
- There have even been cases of teens being charged with producing and distributing child pornography.
- The owner of a phone or computer with inappropriate photos of anyone under 18 stored on it could be charged with possession.
- If they go to someone in another state (which can happen really easily) it could lead to federal felony charges.
Teen is charged for posting 30 inappropriate photos of herself on MySpace to impress her boyfriend.
'Sexting' teenagers risk child-porn charges

'SEXTING' HAS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
HOW IT HAS AFFECTED PHILLIP ALPERT

- Kicked out of college
- Probation for 5 years
- Registered Sex Offender
- Mandatory Sex Offender Class ($1500/yr)
- Not allowed to use the internet

'SEXTING' IS SERIOUS
FEDERAL CRIME IN AT LEAST NINE STATES
5. **Only Open from Friends but Report if...**

- **Do not open any message from anyone you do not know**
- Report any inappropriate picture you receive on your cell phone to an adult you trust.
- Do **not delete the message, take the phone to the trusted adult**
- Involve your teachers, parents, counselors, principals immediately.
Don’t create it
Don’t send it
Don’t share it

Basically, **STOP!** don’t do it!!!!

**It’s illegal!**