



Dear Parents:

We can never be too careful when it comes to the safety and well-being of our children. I would like to share information with you about rumors of a very disturbing online game and encourage you to talk with your children about Internet Safety.

The Momo Challenge is reportedly being spread through Facebook, YouTube, and WhatsApp platforms. The “game” entices students to complete various daily tasks and submit photos proving they have accomplished them. The danger level of the daily challenges is rumored to escalate as the game progresses and includes harming oneself and others. It is believed that the game culminates with a task directing players to kill themselves. You can learn more about this terrible challenge here:

<https://youtu.be/NVUKJt5s2sE>

Some have questioned whether the Momo Challenge is real or the latest Internet hoax, however, multiple law enforcement agencies and schools are taking it seriously enough to issue warnings.

What can parents do? Here are some tips from Internet safety expert Josh Ochs of smartsocial.com:

- Teach children to never communicate with strangers on social media and to never share personal information online.
- Remind children that they can always talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable on social media.
- Encourage children to use social media as a tool to improve their digital footprint and have fun with friends (in a safe way).
- Consider asking children if they have ever heard of this type of online challenge and discuss the dangers.
- Remind children that “Momo” is not a fictional character but a real person with negative intentions.
- Learn about viral social media challenges before your children so that you can help keep them safe.

Finally, the best way to keep your children safe online is to be aware of what sites they are visiting and who they are communicating with. It is okay to take steps to make sure they are interacting with people you know and doing so in a way that’s healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child or his/her peers, you are encouraged to contact Elementary School Counselor, Dana Guetschow at 715-468-7815.

Great Resources for parents looking for more information about internet safety:

<http://www.kidsskills.org/english/images/Kidsskillsonline-presentation.pdf>

<https://www.kidsmartz.org/> - <https://www.common sense media.org/>

Together, we can keep our children safe.

School District of Shell Lake

www.shelllake.k12.wi.us

#shellakestrong