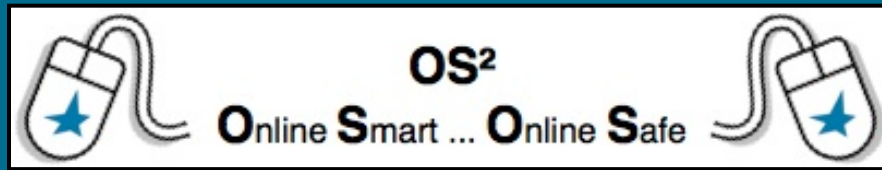


# Bloomington Public Schools



## Staying away from online predators

### What are online predators?

- People can blog, create their own webpage, play games and trade messages with others.

### **WARNING SIGNS: Your child may be the target of an online predator if he or she...**

- is lonely and has easy internet access
- spends more than 3 hours a day online
- is online during the hours when parents aren't home
- has better technology skills than their parents

### Where do online predators find their victims?

#### **Chat Rooms**

- They hang in chat rooms for kids
- They send private messages to kids

#### **Online Games**

- They try to talk to kids while they play games online

#### **Social Networking Websites** (like FaceBook)

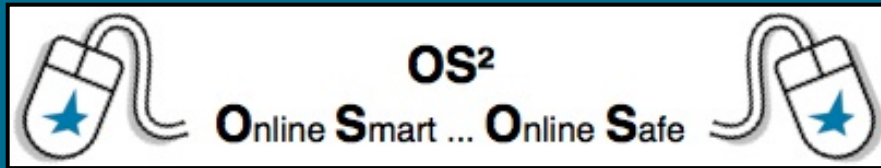
- They make friend requests with kids, join groups for kids, play games, follow kids' news updates, read public chats and send private messages

### How do predators get kids' attention online?

- Predators act nice to get kids to think they are friends
- Predators pretend to have the same interests, likes and dislikes
- Predators get kids to trust them through frequent chats
- Predators offer to send kids presents

### What could happen next?

- Predators start asking kids for private information, like their name, age & picture. Then keep asking for more & more info
- Predators ask kids to do things they are uncomfortable with
- Predators want kids to keep their "friendship" a secret. They may threaten to hurt them or your family if they don't keep it a secret.
- Predators ask to meet kids face-to-face



## Staying safe on social networking websites

### What can I do if my child is a victim of an online predator?

- Let them know it's not their fault
- Look at the emails, chats, pictures or videos that have been sent to your child (Do not delete them.)
- Do not respond to the predator
- Contact the police and they will tell you what to do next

### How can kids avoid online predators? Tell your child ...

- **DO NOT** share private information with others online
- **DO NOT** add private information to their online profile
- **DO NOT** add their picture to their profile
- Pick a screen name that hides who they are
- Only share their screen name with your family & friends they trust
- Stay away from chat rooms for teens or adults
- You need to approve the websites they can use, to make sure are safe for kids
- Let you know if something in a message doesn't seem right
- Ask **BEFORE** talking with people online
- New people they meet online are not their friends
- **NEVER** agree to meet people from online, in person
- Only open messages from people they know

### How can I help my child stay safe while online?

- Ask before signing up for an account or profile on a website
- Carefully read the rules of a game to make sure it is safe for kids
- **DO NOT** let your child play adult games and or join adult websites, like FaceBook.
- **DO NOT** allow your child to pretend to be older, just to use adult and teen websites
- Help your child choose a username/screen name with no private information in it
- Constantly remind your child **NOT** to share private information with others online
- Monitor what they are doing on websites and cell phones. Check if anyone they have not met in person is asking private questions, sending inappropriate pictures or videos or making inappropriate requests of your child.