GET SCHOOLED ON CYBERSECURITY:
ONLINE LEARNING SECURITY TIPS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

IN COLLABORATION WITH

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As K-12 schools adopt fully online or blended virtual and in-person learning environments, it is important to understand some basic cybersecurity steps students and parents can take to make sure they move to the top of the class securely.

THE CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT (COPPA)

COPPA gives parents control over what information websites can collect from their kids. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, enforces the COPPA Rule, which spells out what operators of websites and online services must do to protect the privacy and safety online for children under 13 years old.

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION
Personal information is any information that can be used to identify you or your accounts. Examples include your name, address, phone number, usernames and passwords, pictures, birthday and social security number. If a stranger or someone you know asks you to share this information online, say no and stop talking to them. Immediately tell your parent or guardian who asked for it.

CHECK BEFORE YOU DOWNLOAD
Talk to your parents before you open an email attachment or download any software from the internet. These can sometimes cause viruses, which can make you unable to use your computer.

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TIPS FOR STUDENTS

THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK
Remember what you learned about not accepting candy from strangers? Apply that to the online world as well. Do not click links in emails, text messages or chat boxes from people you do not know--and be suspicious of links sent from those you know as well.

BLOCK THE BULLIES
If another student in your online class is making you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult.

PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER
Be sure to keep your laptop or tablet close to you. When you're done using it for the day, put it in a safe place at home. Don't leave it by itself outside or in a public place.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN
Need to do research for your lessons? Talk to your librarian, teacher or parent about where you can go for safe and accurate websites for research. You can also talk to your local public library.

MAKE PASSWORDS LONG AND STRONG
Passwords are the keys to your accounts. The only people who need to know them are YOU and your parents or guardians. Not your brother, sister, best friend, or teacher – just you. Make a password in the form of a sentence you can remember, such as: "ILiket0EatIceCream0n$undays!"

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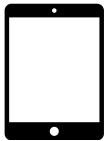
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TIPS FOR PARENTS

If you are not tech-savvy, it's OK. If you need help with any of these tips, reach out to other parents, to your child's school, or trusted family members. The goal here is not to make you or your child a security expert, but to make online learning a safe space.

NEW TECH, WHO DIS?
If the school issues or requires a technology that you and/or your child are not familiar with, explore its features together. Configure the security and privacy settings together immediately.

*APP*LY YOUR RESEARCH
Apps are a great way for students to learn and apply their knowledge. Before downloading any new learning app on your child's device, make sure it's a legitimate app. Who created the app? What do the user reviews say? Are there any articles published online about the app's privacy & security features (or lack thereof)?

DON'T HESITATE TO UPDATE
Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices children are using for their virtual schooling is one of the best defenses against online threats. When the computer or device says it's time to update the software, don't click postpone. Update.

STRONG PASSWORDS IN PLAY KEEP CYBER CRIMINALS AT BAY
When is the last time you changed your home's router password, if ever? Change passwords for routers and smart devices from their default manufacturer's password to one that is long (at least 12 characters) and unique.

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TIPS FOR PARENTS

PARENTAL CONTROLS
Parental controls are a great way to establish parameters around what kids can and can't do online. They do not replace candid discussions with your kids about online security and safety. Children may not recognize the dangers of visiting unknown websites or communicating with strangers online, so talk with them about these threats.

NETWORK SEPARATELY
Students aren't the only ones spending more time on the home network. Parents are also working from home at an unprecedented scale. If you and your children are all working from home, consider using separate networks to enhance your security--particularly if your work involves access to sensitive information.

KNOW YOUR ROLE
Sometimes it's unavoidable for children to use the same computer that parents use for their work. If you're sharing devices, set up different user accounts so that children have access to a guest account with limited permissions and access. For instance, restrict your child's permissions to install and run software applications.

CONFIGURE PRIVACY SETTINGS
Go through accounts with children to configure privacy and security settings to limit over-sharing of information--such as location and camera sharing. Walk the kids through why certain settings need to be changed.

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LEARN MORE

☑ **NCSA:** Tips for Parents on Raising Privacy-Savvy Kids
https://staysafeonline.org/resource/raising-privacy-savvy-kids/

☑ **EDUCAUSE RESOURCE HERE**

☑ **FTC**: Remote Learning & Children's Privacy
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/04/remote-learning-and-childrens-privacy

☑ **FBI** Cyber Safety for Young Americans:
https://www.fbi.gov/fbi-kids

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) builds strong public/private partnerships to create and implement broad-reaching education and awareness efforts to empower users at home, work and school with the information they need to keep themselves, their organizations, their systems and their sensitive information safe and secure online and encourage a culture of cybersecurity. www.staysafeonline.org

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