

TOP TEN TIPS FOR KIDS FOR ONLINE & CELLPHONE SAFETY FROM MS. K & OFFICER KIM

1. Never give out any personal information (name, address, phone number, school, schedule, password, credit card information, etc.) to anyone, even if you think you know them. First name and last initial is plenty for your friends to figure out who they're talking to.
2. Never agree to meet in person someone you meet online. If someone invites you to meet them in person – tell your parents right away. Don't tell anyone your schedule and don't say where you'll be hanging out.
3. If someone sends you something or a website has something that upsets you or makes you nervous or uncomfortable – show it to a trusted adult immediately.
4. Do not ever send anything offensive or insulting to anyone – whether you know the person or not. Always read all of a message or email before forwarding it on to anyone. Make sure there is nothing in the message that will upset anyone you are forwarding it to.
5. Do not give out someone else's screen name, email address, or cell phone number without asking that person first. Also, do not post or send pictures of other people without their permission (remind them to ask their parents too!)
6. Do not participate in chain mail messages, emails, or text messages that threaten bad luck to anyone who doesn't do what they're told in the message. These are fake and do not work, but they do scare some people. Also, skip filling out and sending on “fun” survey messages that ask for personal information like favorite this or that. You never know who it may be forwarded to.
7. Follow the rules and guidelines set by your parents. Do not go to websites, chat rooms, etc. that your parents have not told you it is okay to visit.
8. Be polite and use good manners online, just like you would in real life. Using all capital letters in emails and instant messages is like yelling. If you are joking, add a smiley or a “LOL” (laughing out loud) so that the person can tell it is a joke.
9. Be warned that if you send an offensive or threatening email or message you can lose your Internet or phone service (people can report you to AOL and other service providers!!)
10. Always start your Internet visit from a safe and trusted spot like the Montauk School Library Media Center Web page at www.montaukschool.org