

Hello to our Carmel Unified School District Community,

As a follow up to our two community forums this week on the [Impact of Social Media on our Schools and Communities](#), I wanted to provide you with some additional information and resources. For anyone not able to attend one of the events, or those wishing to view the presentation again, here is a link to the videotaped presentation of Officer Joe Allen, Glendale PD from the evening of Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:

<https://youtu.be/F0YyUizwvn0>

If you do not have time to watch the entire video (approximately 90 minutes) but would like to access additional resources on how to support your child in avoiding the pitfalls of social media use, we highly recommend the article, "9 Social Media Red Flags Parents Should Know About" which may be accessed through this link:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/9-social-media-red-flags-parents-should-know-about>

In Carmel Unified School District, all students discuss and sign this digital citizenship agreement every year:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1utQrnpNkbIBx1xXv8R2kDYHOz286BJJAGSRuJ\\_PfeM0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1utQrnpNkbIBx1xXv8R2kDYHOz286BJJAGSRuJ_PfeM0/edit)

We cycle through various subjects with students each year in formal, age appropriate presentations on topics including:

- Cyber bullying
- Internet safety
- Digital footprint
- Copyright
- Types of electronic communication

As teachers use digital tools such as google docs and online forums they discuss with their classes various aspects of digital citizenship. The importance of digital citizenship is one that we recognize as a community issue, requiring the collective efforts of us all: students, parents, educators and law enforcement. These efforts include monitoring, education, and continuous conversations about the importance of empathy in communications and the potentially negative impact of social media.

Wanelo. Shots. Hyper. Bebo. Peach. These are not random words, but rather the top five up and coming social media applications predicted to replace the more familiar names like Snapchat and Facebook. In the fluid world of social media, we hope to continue our work with you to ensure that safe practices of our students. Officer Allen gave a great analogy that captured the importance of our collective and continuous conversations regarding this topic with your youth. He asked how many times did we, as parents, tell our child(ren) to look both ways before crossing the road? The answer is probably more times than we could begin to count. Adopting that same approach to social media and digital citizenship will support our students in safely navigating those potentially dangerous routes also.

Sincerely Yours,  
Karen Hendricks  
Interim Superintendent