

Internet Safety:  
Playing Safe on the Information Super Highway  
By  
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- # A safe Internet is like a safe car, you need:
  - # A good firewall – Seatbelts
  - # A good spyware program – Anti-lock breaks
  - # A good pop-up blocker – Air bag
  
- # You can have all of this, but without common sense you are still at risk.
- # You can be a bad driver on the road or on the information super highway.

**Basic Internet Safety Involves:**

**Common Sense Rules**

- # Keeping your personal information private
- # Never having a face to face meeting with someone you “meet” online
- # Never responding to messages that are mean, inappropriate, or make you feel uncomfortable

**Keeping your personal information private**

- # 10% of marriages are due to meeting online.
- # Meeting on eharmony is different than social networking.
- # Facebook is a class reunion killer.
- # 12 year old is a great target for ID theft with no leans, levees, loans, or lawsuits and they do not even know what a credit history check is.

**Never having a face to face meeting with someone you “meet” online**

- # We have gone from internet predators soliciting 12 year old girls to 12 year old girls sexting other students.
- # Research indicates that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before adulthood.

**Trends to Watch**

- # Text, tweet, blog, post VS ID theft
- # Social site engagement VS Social skills deficit
- # Internet fame VS Internet infamy
- # Containment VS Educational engagement
- # Technology Addition VS Technology addiction

**Keeping Your Personal Information Private**

- # Never give the following information online:
- # Full Name
- # Address (even the city you live in)
- # Phone number
- # Name of school
- # Friends’ names
- # Age
- # Photos
- # Credit Card number or information.

## **Keeping Your Personal Information Private**

- # “Go Stratford Spartans!!”
- # “We are going to beat Snyder in the game on Friday!”
- # “Jennifer is going to be the best cheerleader Cooper HS ever had! Tryouts are in the gym Friday at 4:00. She is going to be awesome!”
  
- # Would you put on a billboard in the middle of town the things you said last night on my space or IM?

## **Never Meet Face-to Face With Someone You “Meet” Online.**

- # When you meet someone in life you have social cues you use to judge whether someone is safe or not. (clothing, appearance, voice, mannerisms...)
- # With the internet, all of those cues are taken away and all you are left with is what the person writes on a screen.

## **Never Meet Face-to-Face With Someone You “Meet” Online.**

- # Most Internet Predators follow the same process.
  - # Meet in a CHAT ROOM, BLOG SITE, or GAME SITE
  - # Ask to talk in a PRIVATE ROOM, BUDDY LIST, or IM.
  - # Talk nightly, conversation goes from general to personal
  - # Become mentor/counselor/confidant/friend
  - # E-MAIL is exchanged
  - # Photos are exchanged
  - # Letters and gifts are sent
  - # Plans are made to meet with the Predator (sometimes they help with money or travel plans)
  - # They meet
  - # Predator does what they will with the victim

## **Never respond to messages that are mean, inappropriate, or make you feel uncomfortable.**

- # If someone is angry, hostile, rude, or makes you feel uncomfortable, don’t respond and turn them into the Chat Room Monitor, teacher, and parent.
- # Hit Shift + Print Screen to copy the desk top and then paste it to a word document. Now you have evidence of the threat.
- # If it continues report them to: [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or call 1-800-843-5678.
  
- # If you accidentally go to a website that has mean, scary, or inappropriate pictures or messages you can leave.
  - # Turn off the monitor.
  - # Tell mom and dad.
  - # Hit the “home” button or “Control + Alt + Delete” to get out safely.

## **Where to use these Common Sense Rules:**

- # **E-mail**
  - # Don’t respond to e-mail from people you don’t know.
  - # Businesses like banks, credit cards, e-bay, and others DON’T use e-mail to do account information and other personal transactions.
  - # Never use links, download materials, and start files from an e-mail you don’t know or were not expecting.

## # Pop-ups

- # Don't click on pop-ups
- # Don't give personal information
- # If the MP3 player is free, why do they need a credit card number or for you to subscribe to 5 magazines, downloads, or other services to get it?

## # Bulletin Boards, IM, Texting, Twitter

- # Never fill out a profile box
- # Choose a gender neutral screen name
- # Don't give personal information
- # Remember anything you post can be copied and can't be taken back.
- # Never put people you "meet" on the internet on your IM groups.

## # Chatrooms

- # Never fill out a profile box
- # Choose a gender neutral name
- # Don't give personal information
  - # The number one question asked in chatrooms is ASL- Age, Sex, Location

## # Online Games

- # Some new game console systems now allow online and chatting without using a computer.
- # Many sites allow gambling to take place using credit cards, money orders, and pay pal accounts.
- # Many game sites are like a chatroom where you can play games also.

## # Webpages

- # Know who authored or sponsored the site.
- # Remember you don't have to be a business to make a webpage.
- # Many criminals copy legitimate sites and pose them as the original.
- # If you do give personal information look for "https:" in the web address to know if they are a secure site.

## # Social Networking Sites

- # Don't post personal information, pictures, or other identifiable information.
- # Remember, anything you post can be copied and is hard to take back.
- # If someone is being rude or mean you need to block them or talk to the site administrator.

Rod Pruitt has been an educational consultant for Region 14 ESC for the last 9 years. He has worked in Title IV SDFSC where he helps 42 school districts with emergency planning, homeland security coordination, grief counseling, prevention and education efforts for drugs, bullying, dropout, and other areas. Before becoming an educational consultant Mr. Pruitt worked as a crisis caseworker and later a casework supervisor with the STAR program working with runaways, truants, 1<sup>st</sup> offenders, and at-risk youth and their families. In 1997 he worked his first internet runaway case and has been working with internet safety efforts ever since. Mr. Pruitt has been a regular presenter for the SDFSC Texas State Conference, the Safe School Health Students Texas State Conference. He has also presented at the Texas School Nurses Association Conference, TSTA Conference, as well as for numerous church, parent, and community groups. Rod Pruitt received his BS in Psychology and his MA in Family Psychology from Hardin-Simmons University. He enjoys spending time with his wife (a kindergarten teacher for the last 17 years) and his 2 boys.

### Internet safety

In this presentation we will discuss the changing world of internet use and internet dangers. We will explore how teacher and student are using technology more and more while the dangers of internet predators, identity thief, and sexting are in the news daily. We will explore why we as educators need to go beyond do's and don'ts lists for internet safety. We will look at some common sense rules and show how even as the technology changes the rules for safety don't.