

Dear Rocklin Unified Parents and Guardians:

Rocklin Unified School District prides itself on providing a safe learning environment for its students. An emerging concern that has the potential to be harmful is the inappropriate use of the Internet among students. We are asking your support to assist with this challenge.

Myspace.com has become the most popular website among students nationwide with over 57 million members. Unfortunately, this website has also become a favorite of child predators, cyber bullies, and con artists. There are no legitimate adults monitoring the content on these web pages. Students have used the website to participate in on-line bullying or threaten harm to other students. Rocklin Unified has completely blocked the use of **Myspace.com** and other similar websites from our school computers and will continue to block objectionable material when deemed appropriate.

Schools nationwide have seen an increase in negative student behavior as a result of what has been written from home computers. Students who are bullied on-line tend not to report it for fear that they will be barred from using the Internet. Cyber bullies, mostly ages 9-14, are using the anonymity of the Web to hurt others without witnessing the consequences. The instant messaging component of **Myspace.com** allows students to chat with other students and post things that would not be said in a face-to-face situation.

Outside of our schools, adults posing as youth have gained access into student chat rooms, which has led to tragedy in some cases. Unsuspecting students have posted enough personal information that predators are able to locate their home or school address, thus becoming easy targets for predators. **Myspace.com** is public domain and anything posted can be used by anyone having Internet access.

I would encourage you to talk with your children, ask them if they have a “Myspace” account, and discuss the dangers this website can pose to unsuspecting teens. If you have never viewed “Myspace,” I encourage you to go to www.myspace.com and register. It is free and can be done with an e-mail address. This will provide you with first-hand information regarding the types of personal information, messages, diaries, and photos that students post to this website. Once you have registered, you can search by name, email address, etc., to see if your children are registered. You can narrow the search results by putting in your city. Although most of what is written is not immoral, offensive, or illegal, some of what students have written is. Parents should be aware of what their children are writing and what others are posting on their web sites.

Other parent tips and helpful resources:

- Review this letter with your children so they understand the potential danger of the Internet.
- If your children are using **Myspace.com** with your permission, review their profiles to ensure they have not posted personal and identifiable information.

- Establish rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of your children while on the Internet.
- www.safekids.com (helpful guidelines on Internet safety)
- www.webwisekids.org or 866-WEB-WISE or email webwisekids2@aol.com

Rocklin Unified will continue to provide Internet security within our schools. It is important that parents also monitor use at home.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping our students safe. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Steve Bradley, Director of Technology, at 916/630-3199; or Paul Carras, Deputy Superintendent, at 916/630-2227.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brown, Superintendent
Rocklin Unified School District

KB:ch