



## Lee's Summit Elementary School

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Office of the Principal

Parents/Guardians,

Recently, the national news highlighted a story on a WhatsApp Challenge about suicide. This challenge first was noted in late summer 2018, but has picked up attention again on news media regarding the social media app. We want to assure you that the district takes content filtering seriously and always investigate any information related to content filtering that come in from teachers, administrators or parents. These news stories did heighten attention and we wanted to give information to help everyone stay informed and aware. We have searched our content filter and have verified that the word "momo" is getting blocked. We have also found no evidence of this appearing in our students' YouTube files. YouTube issued a statement that they have no videos on their servers with this content and some media outlets are now reporting this as a "hoax". Again, the district has found no evidence of students getting to any momo challenge content.

If a parent/guardian ever has a concern about what their student's viewing history or what is appearing, please contact your student's teacher and administrator. They will work with the technology department to see what the filter is showing and make sure all settings are properly being given to the student and that the student has not found a way to circumvent the filtering policy.

The district wants to help with understanding about our content filtering policy on the Chromebooks and offer some resources to help parents set limits for their children.

Here are key points on the content filtering for Chromebooks for elementary students:

- Content filtering is done by a web-based App called Securly that filters both on and off the district network. There is no way for students to remove the app.
- The content filter blocks by categories and keywords. A category is how the website is classified. More information on content filtering can be found [here](#).

Below are some of the categories and keywords blocked at the elementary level:

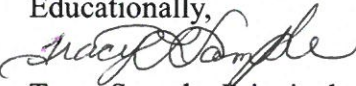
- Categories (Social media, pornography, gambling, non-educational games)
- Keywords (including Momo and popular terms for inappropriate content)

- YouTube is restricted by approved educational content. This is called YouTube Restricted mode. More information can be found [here](#). YouTube videos are embedded into many educational websites and this is why YouTube is open.

Monitoring your student's time on an electronic device is always a challenge. Some parents place time constraints on the screen time that their children have, some have "plug in and put away" scheduled times each night and some have rules that the screen should be visible to the adults in the house at all times.

As we prepare for a week of spring break this month and appreciating parental choice, this website may be helpful.

Common Sense Media - Parents' Ultimate Guides -  
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parents-ultimate-guides>

Educationally,  
  
Tracy Sample, Principal