

TECH TIPS 4 PARENTS

In alignment with the Prior Lake - Savage Area Schools Acceptable Use Policy for Technology, beyond school, parents must take responsibility for the use of technology and the Internet. As a parent, you are responsible for monitoring your child's use of home or District-provided educational technology including District-issued email and cloud accounts as well as the Internet. This includes Internet use at home or any other remote location outside of school. Below are some basic tips for parents to begin to create a safe digital environment.

Filter Access

Filtering software is not built in to the iPad. However the presentation below shows how to set further restricts to the internet filter on the iPad. Other softwares exist to filter and block inappropriate content on your wireless home network if you choose to install. Some possible filters to consider include [OpenDNS](#) (free version available), [SafeEyes](#), and [NetNanny](#).

Set Expectations

Regularly share your expectations with your child about accessing only appropriate sites and content, as well as being a good person when online (even when parents aren't watching). Understand that your child's use of many technologies (such as computers, iPods, video game systems, and cell phones) likely gives your teen the ability to connect to unfiltered public wireless networks (such as in a library or coffee shop, by picking up a neighbor's wireless signal, or connecting to the Internet through a cell service). Therefore, it is important to maintain regular, open dialog about Internet use and access. Discuss your expectation for appropriate use and behavior.

Monitor & Limit Screen Time

Experts suggest having teens surf the Internet in a central place at home, such as the kitchen or family room, rather than away from adult supervision or behind a closed door. Know what your child is doing with technology and how his or her time is being spent. Technology can be a great tool and resource, but also has the potential to be a big distractor. Help your child learn to focus on completing tasks or assignments prior to engaging in other Internet activities. Teaching today's children how to manage multiple sources of information and potential distractions is a critical life skill, one best learned before heading off to college or the workplace.

Put the iPad to Bed, But Not in the Bedroom

Parenting experts suggest parking all technology devices, from cell phones to iPads, in a common family room overnight to discourage late night, unmonitored use and sleep disruption. Don't allow your child to sleep with an iPad. Remember to model appropriate use and balance of technology in your own life as well.

Family Media Use Agreements

The following links will take you to some useful [Family Media Agreements](#) provided by Common Sense Media. Common Sense Media, an online resource approved by PLSAS, also provides a variety of [Family Tip Sheets](#) to aid in a variety of technology based situations.