

Washington
Township
Public
Schools



Eileen Abbott Central Administration Building
Office of the Superintendent
206 East Holly Avenue • Sewell, New Jersey 08080
(856) 589-6644 • FAX (856) 256-8931

January 17, 2019

Dear WTPS Families,

A recent social media challenge directed at children and young adults, called the “Momo Challenge”, is creating concern throughout the country. Washington Township Public Schools is urging parents to become aware of this challenge and monitor their child’s use of social media and the internet.

The “Momo Challenge” can begin on Facebook and/or through *WhatsApp* and is disturbing in nature. The cell phone communications through the “Momo Challenge” begins with a chat which ultimately encourages students to do things that can be harmful to the child and/or others. NBC10 recently ran a news story on this issue that you may wish to view: <https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/How-to-Talk-to-Children-About-Dangerous-Momo-Challenge-502783461.html>. *WhatsApp* is encouraging its users to block phone numbers engaging in this practice and to report them to the company.

In an effort to prevent participation in this social media phenomenon in school, we are reaching out to you in an effort to make you aware, and to join forces to prevent students from discussing this potentially threatening trend.

The Washington Township Public School’s counselors and administrative teams will continue to provide parents with information to address this most recent social media and internet concern. Please consider viewing the hyperlinked news broadcast and continue to engage in active discussions with your child about online activities. If you have additional questions or concerns regarding this topic, please contact your child’s school administrator.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent

E⁴

Excellence through Equity, Engagement, and Environment.

Adopted by the Board of Education, December, 2018