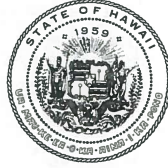


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Niu Valley Middle School
An International Baccalaureate MYP World School
310 HALEMAUMAU STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821-2099
U.S.A.
Ph. (808) 377-2440, Fax (808) 377-2444
www.niuvalleymiddle.org

November 21, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In recent months, there have been nationwide reports of teens inappropriately using a social media application called Yik Yak. This application allows users to anonymously post and connect with other users in a 1.5-mile radius. Many of these posts range from name-calling to threats.

Not only should you know about but talk to your children about the importance of being responsible users of technology.

While the Department of Education (DOE) already blocks a number of applications on school campuses, we request your help in ensuring that your child is using his/her devices responsibly.

Social media is a valuable resource for people to exchange information; however, as with any technology, it also has the potential to be used inappropriately. The DOE, promotes the idea of digital citizenship, defined as being a responsible, safe and ethical user of digital and internet technologies.

The best way to protect children online is to talk to them:

Use everyday opportunities to talk to your child about being online, such as news stories about cyber bullying or texting while driving.

Be specific about what's off-limits, and what is considered unacceptable behavior.


Consider parent controls such as filtering, blocking and monitoring tools.

Remind your child that real people with real feelings are behind profiles, screen names and avatars.

For more information and resources, please visit HawaiiPublicSchools.org and search for "Internet Safety," or simply type <http://bit.ly/1dtCNtC> on your browser.

Please feel free to contact me at 377-2440 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Sean S. Tajima
Principal / Head of School



AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER