

Information on the “Momo Challenge” going around

We wanted to make you aware of what seems to be the latest viral challenge targeting children. It is called the “Momo Challenge” and it centers around a ghoulish-looking avatar essentially threatening and cyber bullying children who refuse to do the challenge. Some of Momo’s suggestions are dangerous tasks for kids to perform, including potentially hurting themselves and/or others or hiding for an extended period of time.

From what we have learned, these and other suggestions, are hacking into YouTube, Minecraft, Fortnite, Snapchat, etc. This challenge also occurs through an app called WhatsApp, which could function on both phones and tablets.

We recommend you talk to your child about these kinds of challenges in a way that you feel is appropriate for their understanding. Given the connection and concern with messages within YouTube Kids videos, we also recommend you monitor what your child is watching and screen the videos, even if they appear to be safe, to ensure their viewing does not include harmful messages.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our campus counselors. As always your eyes and ears into the lives of our students are much appreciated.

Here is a link to lesson plans on internet safety for every age group: <https://www.commonsense.org/education/blog/4-great-lesson-plans-for-internet-safety>

Here are some articles on the challenge:

<https://www.app.com/story/news/education/2018/12/11/viral-momo-challenge-causes-lost-sleep-frayed-nerves-brick/2269677002/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6750761/Schools-warn-parents-sick-Momo-suicide-game-spliced-YouTube-videos.html>