



# ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Brendan Lyons, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Friday, I wrote to you to warn you about the so-called Momo challenge. After hearing from a few parents and doing some additional reading over the weekend, it appears that the Momo challenge is most likely a hoax. On the one hand, we can take a sigh of relief; however, this still serves as an opportunity to talk to our children about the importance of internet safety. While the Momo challenge may not be real, rumors of the challenge are so widespread that it still may be frightening for children who have heard about it from their peers. Furthermore, cyber bullying, online predators, and inappropriate internet content are still real concerns.

Take this opportunity to talk to your children about what they may encounter online. The most important thing you can do to protect your children is to foster good communication. Encourage your children to talk to you or to another trusted adult if they see or encounter something upsetting, whether online or in any other aspect of life.

Cyber Safety Expert Denise DeRosa also reminds us that parents still need to know what their children are doing online. "You don't need to know about every platform and every app and every device out there, but you do need to know and understand your kids' favorite apps, their favorite games, their devices," she said. ([www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)).

Finally, as I said on Friday, please remind your children not to give out personal information online to anyone that they do not know.

Sincerely,

Brendan Lyons, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools