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March 1, 2019

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, there have been recent reports of a form of social media cyberbullying known as the Momo Challenge, which allegedly compels young people to engage in perilous and possibly life-threatening activities.

While it may be more hoax than real threat, because this topic is being discussed in the news and by some students, we would like to provide some information on how you can help ensure the safety and security of our students.

This situation provides an opportunity to remind your student that "If you see something, say something," whether it's a threat to harm themselves or bully a student, or something that makes them feel scared, worried, or uncomfortable. Also, make sure your student knows that it's not OK to contact strangers or be asked to do something online or off that feels wrong.

Parents can take this opportunity to check device controls and make sure your student's media access is age appropriate. Parents of younger children may also want to install YouTube Kids, a more controlled version of YouTube intended for families, for better control of what young children may come across online.

The Momo Challenge is described as a dangerous game that begins with a chat with a stranger, beginning with small tasks that escalate to more serious or violent acts. There is limited evidence this behavior is actually happening, or any children have been harmed. However, students may be curious and drawn to investigate the challenge for themselves and hear or see disturbing images or frightening stories. For more information and resources, see the links below.

ParentZone.org Momo Challenge Parent Tips NationalOnlineSafety.com Momo Guide for Parents SafeSearchKids.com Powered by Google SafeSearch

The Cajon Valley Union School District is committed to keeping our students safe, and we will take any potential threat seriously. As always, the police department and our school administration are working collaboratively to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our schools.

Sincerely,

Ryan Love Coordinator, Safety & Security