Dear Sangster Community,

Every student at Sangster participates in lessons with the school counselor about how to be part of Sangster’s caring community, how to avoid bullies, how to recognize the signs of bullying behavior and what you can do if you encounter this behavior.

My generation was safe from the pressures of peer judgment once we arrived home from school. However, in today’s world of technology, cyberspace has no boundaries. Cyber, which includes all mobile communication devices as opposed to just the internet, is a growing trend with students, particularly adolescents. Cyberbullying is another form of bullying which takes place in today’s world.

According to a series of studies conducted by the Journal of Adolescent Health, more than 80 percent of adolescents own at least one form of new media technology, which they use to communicate with one another, present information about themselves, and share new media creations. Electronic bullying peaks in middle school and is inflicted most often through text messaging, e-mails and chat rooms.

If your child has access to media communication tools, it’s not too early to have conversations about their safety. Here are some topics to get you started:

Don’t give out any personal information

Don’t talk to anyone you don’t know

Use a secure password and don’t give your password to anyone

Be careful what you post on-line

Don’t put pictures of yourself on-line

Tell someone if you get cyberbullied AND save the message that made you uncomfortable
Be honest with your parents

Don’t click on pop-ups

Only go to sites you know are safe.

Have the computer in an area of the house parents can monitor, not in student’s bedrooms.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. As always, I welcome your comments and feedback. You can reach me at (703) 644-8200 or LMReddel@fcps.edu

Your partner in education,

Lisa M. Reddel
Principal

Additional Information:

Student Placements for 2015-2016

While it is still early to be thinking ahead to next year, we want to give you information about class placements for the 2015-2016 school-year ahead of time. The staff at Sangster works hard to place students in an optimal learning situation each year. If you have some information that would help us make those decisions, please send your comments in writing to Mrs. Reddel by June 20. Please do not list teacher names. Rather, describe the learning environment in which your child learns best.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Virginia law requires that students who will reach their fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2015 must be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year unless the parent or guardian notifies the school in writing that they do not wish the child to attend school until the following year.
Sangster’s Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 PM. This orientation is for parents as well as rising kindergarteners. If you have questions, please contact Norma Reynolds, our student registrar at (703) 644-8200. If you know of any future kindergarteners who have not called the school to register, please pass along this information. Please register today! Getting our students enrolled early helps us with student enrollment and staffing projections. Thank you.

Forms and other information about registration are available at http://www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml.

For more information about kindergarten, go to http://www.fcps.edu/is/earlychildhood/kindergarten/index.shtml