Dear Parent:

Cincinnati Public Schools has received calls this week from concerned parents about an online issue referred to as the “Momo Challenge.” Recently, numerous reports about a disturbing social media trend that targets children online via popular social media channels began to surface.

There is good reason to believe that this “Momo Challenge” is nothing more than an internet hoax, however, the media stories and online discussions about the “challenge” may still cause anxiety and stress.

We encourage parents to take this as an opportunity to have intentional conversations with their children about what they encounter online. These discussions could include:

* Reminding children to never contact strangers online, on any platform
* Encouraging children to share any worries or concerns with you
* Ensuring children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
* Telling children that nobody has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do

It also is important for parents to know what children can access online. We have the following suggestions for families:

* Set privacy settings for all social media and gaming applications
* Use privacy-enhancing technologies on your child’s devices
* Keep video games and YouTube watching in shared family spaces
* Set up video game restrictions to “friends only”
* Set up “restricted” mode on YouTube for your child’s account so inappropriate content is not available to them, or stream YouTube content through a family-friendly site such as [watchkin.com](http://www.watchkin.com/)
* Look for digital citizenship safety tips – here’s an example: Kids’ Rules for Online Safety https://www.safekids.com/kids-rules-for-online-safety/

If you have any questions or need support, we are available to help. You may contact our office at 513-363-3900.

Thank you for partnering with us on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Roger Lewis Principal

Monica Battle Assistant Principal