

To: Parents of Keystone Junior-Senior High School Students
Faculty and Staff of Keystone Junior-Senior High School

From: Brad Wagner, Principal

Subject: Parent Presentation on Electronic Devices, Apps, and Social Media

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017

Over the past several months I've been made aware of a problem that is seemingly quite prevalent among our students...it's the inappropriate use of their electronic devices and the social media applications (apps) that they've loaded onto them. It's an issue that we must work together to address, because without your help there is no way that our school can hope to eradicate this demeaning and often illegal behavior. We can and must demand more and better from our children.

I think it's important to note that this problem is not unique to the Keystone School District. Anecdotal reports from other local school administrators have led me to believe that all of the school districts in Clarion and Venango County are dealing with this very serious issue.

So far this year I have investigated five significant incidents in which Keystone students were guilty of "sexting" – the sending and/or receiving of inappropriate (nude) pictures by a minor. It's become so commonplace that in 2012 a special section was added to the PA Crimes Code to address this issue (Section 6321). Please take time to look it up. This law essentially made "sexting" a summary offense for minors, except when the inappropriate pictures are shared with others.

I have reached out to several students during the course of these investigations and asked just how commonly this occurs; I am staggered by the responses that I have received. One junior high student estimated that more than half of his classmates have engaged in "sexting." The proliferation of "self-destructing" or "secret" messaging apps has made it easy to do so while minimizing the likelihood of being detected. All you need to do is conduct a simple Google search for "self-destructing or secret apps" and you'll find links to many of these.

Like many people over the age of thirty, I am not particularly tech-savvy. In an attempt to educate our parents, faculty, and staff we would like to hold a Parent Presentation, at which time a staff member from Passages, Inc. will do a presentation about how to make sure that children and young adults are being safe in their utilization of the Internet, social media, electronic devices, and apps. We owe it to them!

Please be advised that this presentation is for parents, faculty, and staff only. High School and Elementary students and pre-school age children will not be admitted. Members of the Keystone Chapter of the National Honor Society will be at the High School to provide activities, games, and crafts for students of Elementary School age during the presentation.

Please check one of the responses and return it to the school.

Yes, I plan to attend the Parent Presentation at Keystone Junior-Senior High School on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

No, I will not attend this Parent Presentation.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____