



## Internet Safety

The Internet provides endless opportunities and information for student learning. We can email classmates and teachers, talk to experts, or even teach ourselves something new. This is what makes the Internet a powerful educational resource. There are things we need to know in order to stay safe while online. We will teach your child how to navigate the World Wide Web safely and responsibly, but keep in mind that children need to have the same safety measures in place at home.

Berlin Public Schools has safeguards in place to keep your child safe. We have filters and virus protection in effect on ALL Berlin Public School technology 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Chromebooks have a built in CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) filter called GoGuardian. Therefore, protection is in place at home, school, or any other location. No filtering system is perfect, but we can monitor closely and block inappropriate content. However, thousands of new sites are created everyday and our filter may not catch all of them. If your child comes across inappropriate content have them report it to the building principal so the site can be blocked. Teachers also incorporate Internet Safety into their classes.

Another component to Internet Safety is online communication. To help teach your child about proper online communication, all students have a Berlin Public Schools student email account. Student email is limited to communicating with teachers and other students that are a part of the Berlin Public Schools' domain. This means that students can only exchange emails to another student or teacher within Berlin Public Schools. Students should only be using the email provided by SAU3 while using their device for these reasons. Use of personal emails, social networking, or other communication methods on these devices are prohibited.

Many people like to socialize online using a social networking site. A social networking site is a website that allows you to build a profile and connect with others. Berlin Public Schools does not support or endorse social networks beyond Google Apps for Education. Most social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are blocked for students, but as a parent it is important to be aware of them. Cyberbullying is defined as using technology such as the Internet or cell phones to bully or harass someone. Here are some tips that you can utilize to help protect your child against cyberbullying:

- Know your child's username and passwords for all social networking sites.
- Friend or Follow your child and check their page often for any suspicious or mean- spirited comments.